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Title: Household dairy production and child growth: Evidence from Bangladesh

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Household dairy production and child growth: Evidence from Bangladesh

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Highlights:

- Milk production/consumption strongly linked to child growth in European and African populations.
- This is the first study to look at dairy production and child growth in an Asian setting.
- Uses unique survey data to exploit quasi-experimental variation in exposure to milk production.
- Milk production increases child HAZ scores by 0.52 standard deviations in the 6-23 month age range.
- However, milk production is associated with a 20-point decline in exclusive breastfeeding.

Abstract

Research from richer countries finds that dairy consumption has strong positive associations with linear growth in children, but surprisingly little evidence exists for developing countries where diets are far less diversified. One exception is a recent economics literature using the notion of incomplete markets to estimate the impacts of cattle ownership on children's milk consumption

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