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Impacts of Double-Fortified Salt on Anemia and Cognition: Four-Year Follow-up Evidence from a School-Based Nutrition Intervention in India

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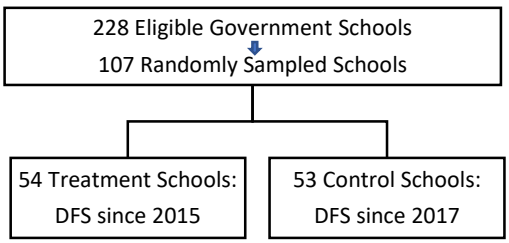
Introduction

- Threat for public health and human capital development: High prevalence of anemia in Indian children [1,2,3]
- Solution: Double-fortified salt [DFS] with iron and iodine at large-scale and long-term [4,5,6]
- **Does a two-and-a-half-year longer school-based delivery of the DFS increase the effectiveness of the treatment in reducing anemia among children?**

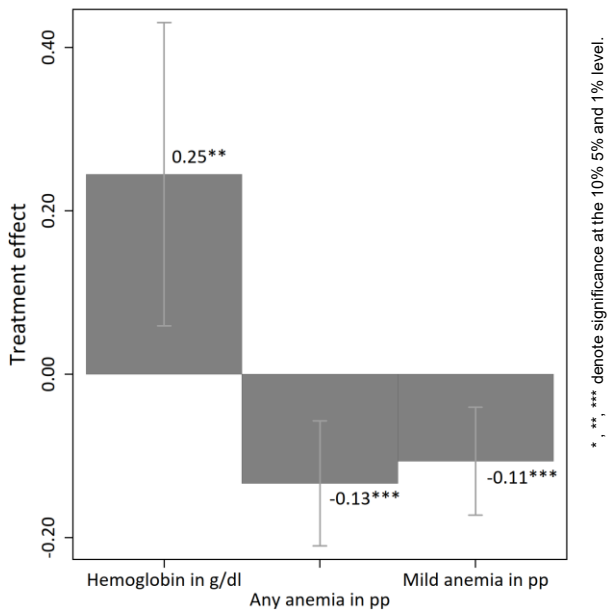
Methods

- Setting: Jehanabad district (2 blocks), Bihar, India
- Random sampling & assignment of staggered roll-out of DFS delivery:



- Panel data for about 1,000 children (baseline 2014/5, endline 2019)
- Health, cognition, and education outcomes
- Difference-in-differences with inverse-probability-of-attrition weights to estimate intention-to-treat (ITT) effects

Results & Discussion



- No impact on human capital outcomes
- Robust results despite empirical challenges: treatment variation, imbalance, attrition

A two and a half-year earlier and longer treatment benefits child health and retains improvement found after one year of treatment [6].

Conclusion

- Due to early use of DFS increase in adolescents' health without crowding out other interventions
- 4-year long provision of DFS not enough for increase in human capital

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