ABSTRACT

In this study, we are interested in the effects of living conditions on children’s mortality. The main aims of the present study are: to measure the influence of households’ living conditions on less than five children’s mortality in Cameroon and Congo; to seek the proximate determinants of that mortality in the two countries.

We used data from the Demographic and Health Surveys of Cameroon realized in 2004 and those of Congo (2005). The study surveyed children under five, 7249 in Cameroon and 4739 in Congo. We resorted to the Principal Component to constitute the living Conditions index and to the multivariate logistic regression to study the relative risks of the under five mortality.

The study has permitted to answer the following series of questions: Are the living conditions of the households determining children’s mortality in the studied countries (Cameroon, Congo)? Is their contribution to the explanation of this phenomenon higher in urban environment than in rural environment of each country? Is it higher in Cameroon than in Congo? What are the variables by which the living conditions mainly influence the studied phenomenon? And which are the principal determinants?

A compared analysis between Cameroon and Congo revealed initially that the proportion of deceased children was higher in the first country than in the second, and that Congo counted more poor than Cameroon. A thorough analysis finally made it possible to detach these countries. Ceteris paribus, the variation of the risk to die between 0-4 years was lower among children from rich, middle and poor Cameroonian households than those of Congo. These revelations allowed us to conclude that poverty has contributed more to infant-juvenile mortality in Congo than in Cameroon.

Analysing the place of residence, we found that, for each country, poverty sowed more disaster in urban environment than in rural environment. In urban environment, Congo is the most touched country, while in rural environment, Cameroon is more affected.
Effects of living conditions on under five mortality in Central Africa

Écrit par Steve B MBOKO IBARA, Economiste-Demographe, stevemboko@yahoo.fr
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