

Food Security and Intra Household Issues

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The Household

- ❑ Site for negotiation, bargaining, even conflict
- ❑ Embedded within wider structures – community, market
- ❑ Huge variability in composition and structure

Gender and intra hh issues

- Social norms and socially assigned roles and responsibilities
- Implications for
 - Food
 - Education
 - Healthcare

Some findings of research

- ❑ Women's share of income makes large contributions to household expenditure patterns that are more child oriented and associated with better health outcomes
- ❑ Some pro-male bias in South Asia in food allocations

ISST study – East Delhi (2003)

- ❑ Migrant population
- ❑ Nuclear households
- ❑ Young children
- ❑ Absence of elderly persons

Education

- ❑ Out of school – 20 % of girls and 14 % of boys
- ❑ Less regular and sustained schooling of girls even where the enrolment is high

Food

- Who eats first – 47 % households children, 25 % men
- Who eats last – 64 % hhs women; main mechanism for discrimination against women in the allocation of food

Sources of intra hh bias

- Early marriage
- Large age gap between spouses
- Decisions re food taken by husbands
- Women eating last
- Reproductive histories – having children early, no spacing, inadequate nutrition
- Disapproval/ prohibition of women working outside the home
- Girls as mothers helpers

Malnutrition among boys and girls

- Height: more girls than boys have moderate and severe stunting, more boys than girls have mild stunting
- Weight: More girls than boys are moderately and severely underweight, more boys than girls mild underweight

Both affected, maybe girls slightly more