

Women's Agency and Malnutrition



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ECON 3240 Poverty, inequality and Mobility
Spring 2015

Fordham's Institute for Women and Girls Annual symposium last year March 2014



DATE	KEYNOTE
SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2014	Maria Pia Belloni
PLACE	Global Women's Initiative (NYU)
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY	PANEL
113 West 60th Street	Meeta Gandhi, CLT Educational Program
12th Floor Lounge	Stacey Radin, Unleashed, Inc.
New York, NY 10023	Regina Serabia, Center for Global Education
TIME	<i>This event is free and open to the public.</i>
9:00AM—1:30PM	
RSVP is required to attend. Register at www.fordham.edu/EducatingGirls .	

Women's Agency, well-being, & empowerment

1. *Women's right to basic necessities essential.... food and medical care— Missing women in China and India and Bangladesh*
2. ***Women's empowerment***, legal protection, intra-household bargaining power, protection from rape and domestic violence... basic human rights... Universal education... MDG 2
3. ***Women's agency is the right to control finances, own property, choose who and when to marry, to work outside the home, key is to control \$\$ and an independent source of income (full equal economic status)....***
4. Recent lack of Anglo agency is why [Lady Mary](#)'s life is upended by the Titanic... and drives the plot of every Jane Austin novel...
5. Not who runs the government [Ellen Sirleaf Johnson](#) or wins a Nobel prize but who makes the decision who and when to marry, when to work and when not to work...

Paradox: Women's agency seems to reduce poverty in LDCs but increases it in OECD ctys... ???

Mary Josephine Crawley



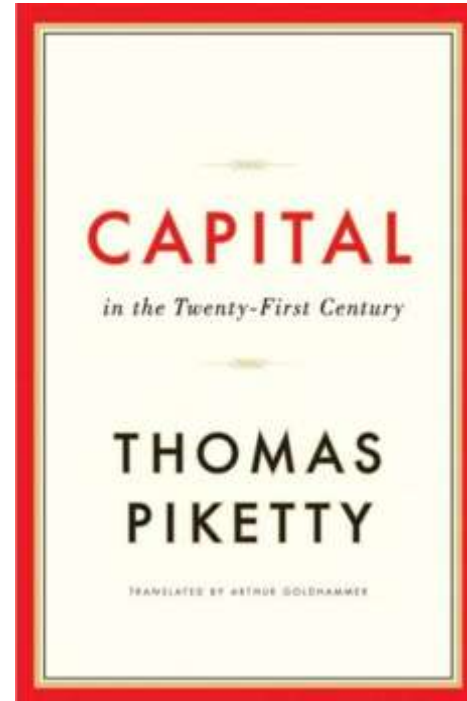
Sen on Agency vs well-being vs. empowerment

- *The concentration was mainly on **women's well-being-and** it was a much needed corrective...” but now “women are increasingly seen.... as active **agents of change**: the dynamic promoters of social transformations that can alter the lives of both women and men...” Sen, 1999, p. 189.*
- *'Understanding the agency role is thus central to recognizing people as responsible persons..... but also we act or refuse to act, and can choose to act one way rather than another. And thus we-women and men-must take **responsibility for doing things or not doing them**. Sen, 1999, p. 190.*
- *“**...working outside the home** and **earning an independent income** tend to have a clear impact on enhancing the social standing of a woman in the household and the society.” Sen, 1999, p. 191*
- *Kabeer’s 2001 book is “Free to choose” about Bangladeshi women in London who choose to work in the home while in BGD they work in factories....” See also [Hans Rosling](#) and Mohammed Yunus on the Bangladesh miracle...*

Traditions & institutions reduce women's agency

- Lack of employment opportunities (or opposition to women's employment --- the Casavas in Nigeria case study, Kristof and Wudunn)
- Early marriage and the Dowry system in India and Bangladesh, girls not brides... ownership of land and assets, rights of widows...
- Lack of control over marriage, medical and child bearing decisions ([Missing women](#), [Melinda Gates' TED talk....](#))
- High U5MR very hard on women, anemia, stress of child birth on young women's health & status acute, see CGD [women's stats](#)
- Women in China and Rwanda and BGD ([Kristof and Wudunn Chapt 12](#))

Women's agency works miracles... in BGD and in the World



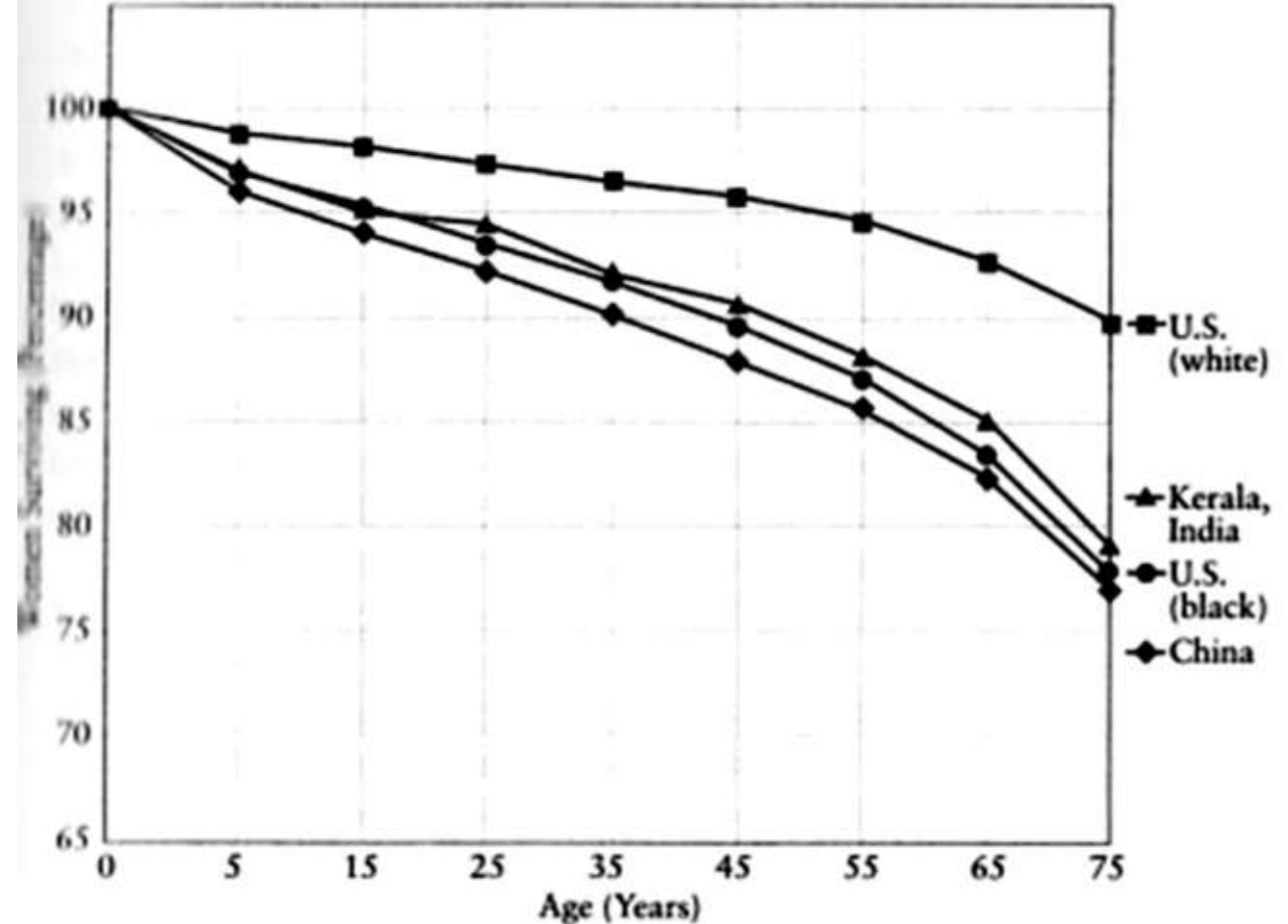
DON'T PANIC — Hans Rosling showing the facts about population



2011 Muhammad Yunus keynote

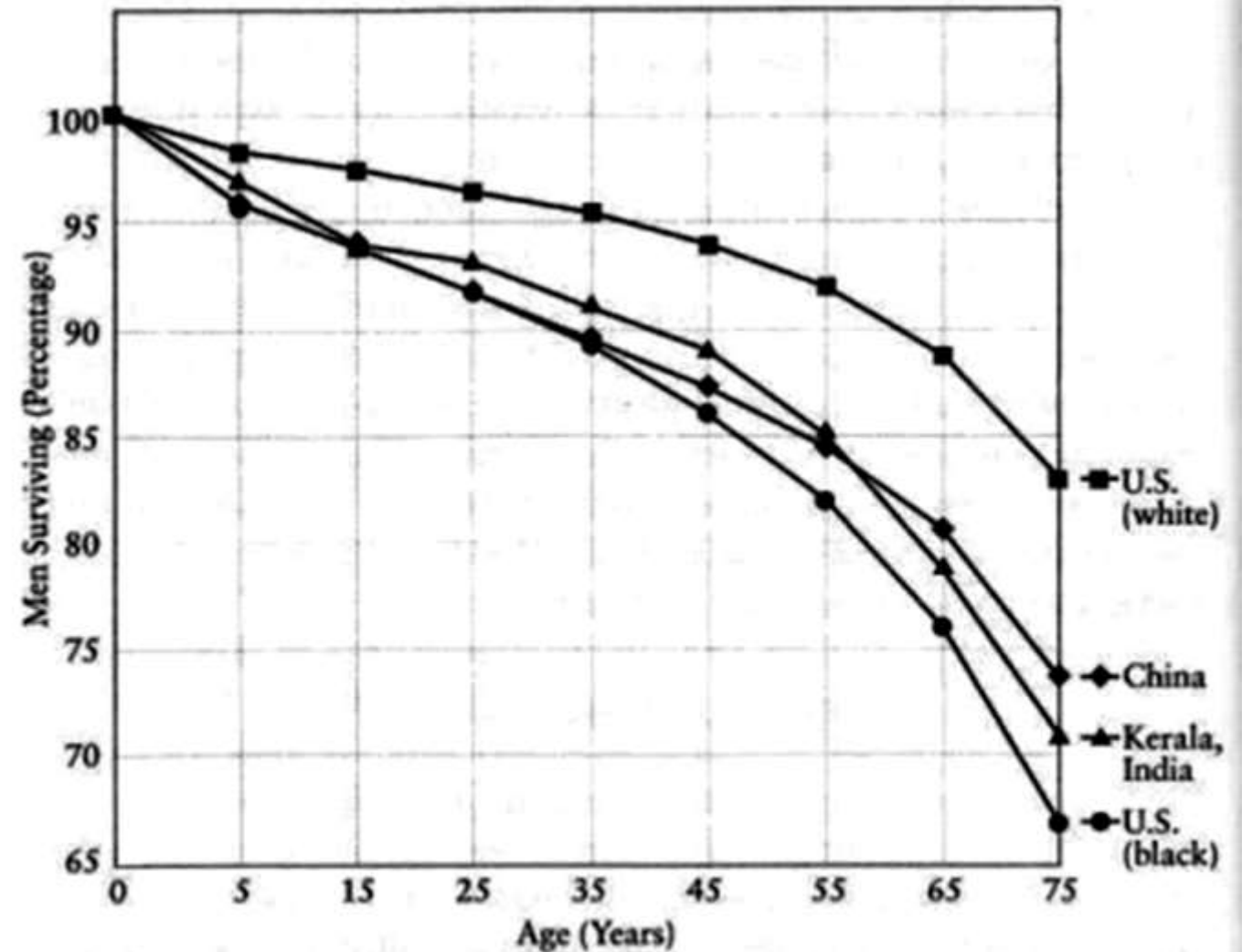
Missing women and higher mortality rates evidence of Gender bias, Sen, 1999 Development as Freedom Kerala, China, US. African Americans

FIGURE 1.2: Variations in Female Survival Rates by Region



Sources: United States, 1991–1993: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Health United States 1995* (Hyattsville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, 1996); Kerala, 1991: Government of India, *Sample Registration System: Fertility and Mortality Indicators 1991* (New Delhi: Office of the Registrar General, 1991); China, 1992: World Health Organization, *World Health Statistics Annual 1994* (Geneva: World Health Organization, 1994).

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Missing women and higher mortality rates evidence of Gender bias, Sen, (1999) *Development as Freedom* Kerala, China, US. African Americans

Education increases women's agency?

- Join the [Peace Corps "Let girls learn"](#) project



Education & the HCZ increases Kiara Molina's agency

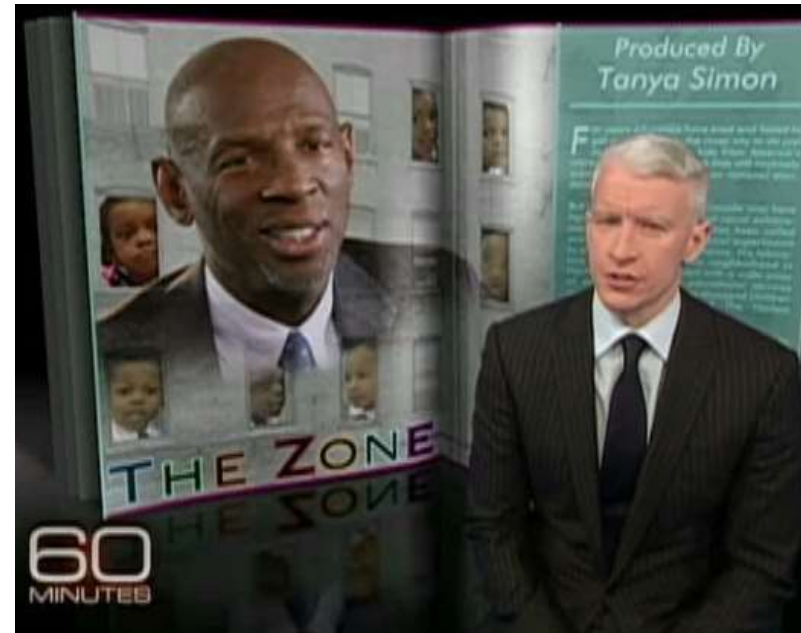
The HCZ combines pre-school, Charter schools, health care, college counseling and CCTs... it has become a model for a series of new "Promise Zones designed to reduce poverty and enhance opportunity



Social structure and Culture Matter in WJ Wilson's 2010

Holistic Analysis of Inner-City Poverty

- Geoffrey Canada of 60 minutes



Self-employment increases Jumah Tarr's agency in Liberia....

- Liberia 'Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women' (EPAG) is a pilot project



Gender outcomes reflect interactions between families, markets & formal & informal institutions (Ravenga & Shetty, 2013, [Empowering Women smart Economics](#))

Chart 2

Shifting into high gear

Gender outcomes result from interactions between households, markets, and institutions.



Source: World Bank, 2011, World Development Report 2012.

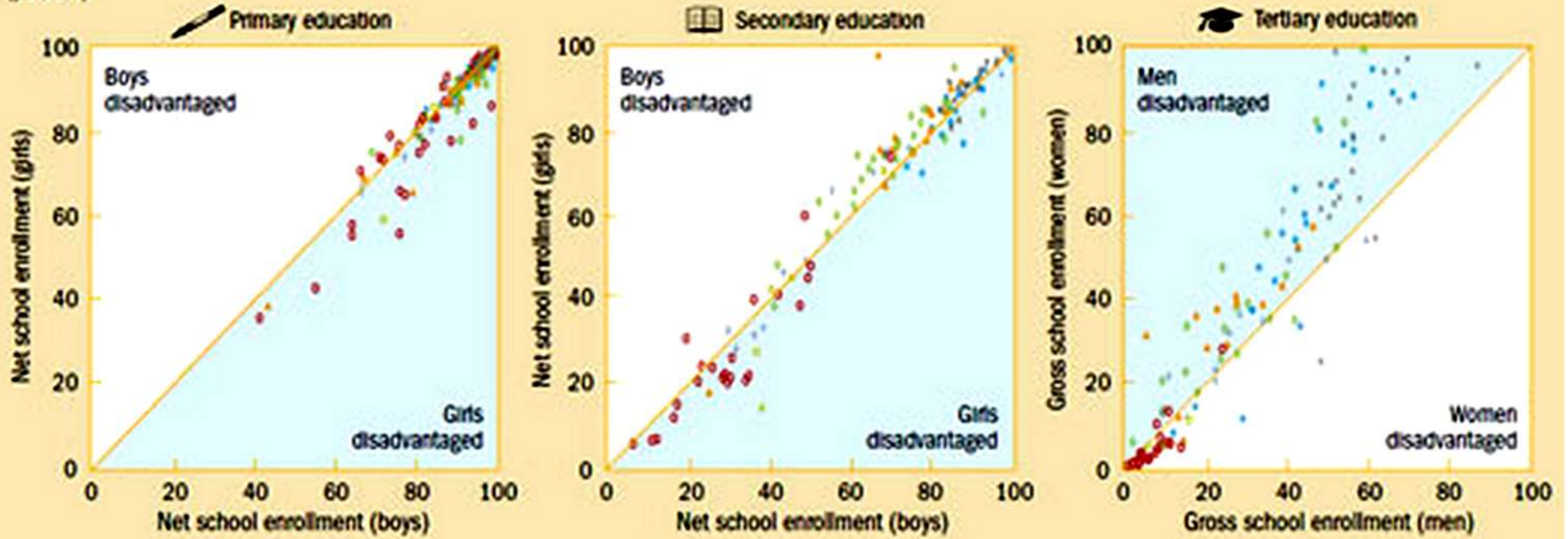
Chart 1

Gender parity in education [\(Ravenga & Shetty, 2012\)](#)

Off to school

Gender parity has been achieved in primary and secondary enrollments, while tertiary enrollments favor young women.

(percent)



- + East Asia and Pacific
- Europe and Central Asia
- Latin America and Caribbean
- Middle East and North Africa
- South Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- x High-income countries

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database.

Note: The 45° line in each panel shows gender parity in enrollments. Any point above that line means more women are enrolled than men.

About 4 million females were “missing” in 2008.

(excess female deaths, thousands)



Four million “missing” women?

([Ravenga & Shetty, 2012](#))

See also Sen Chapter 4.

	At birth		Under 5		5-14		15-49		50-59		Total (under 60)	
	1990	2008	1990	2008	1990	2008	1990	2008	1990	2008	1990	2008
China	890	1,092	259	71	21	5	208	56	92	30	1,470	1,254
India	265	257	428	251	94	45	388	228	81	75	1,255	856
Sub-Saharan Africa	42	53	183	203	61	77	302	751	50	99	639	1,182
High HIV prevalence countries	0	0	6	39	5	18	38	328	4	31	53	416
Low HIV prevalence countries	42	53	177	163	57	59	264	423	46	68	586	766
South Asia (excluding India)	0	1	99	72	32	20	176	161	37	51	346	305
East Asia and Pacific (excluding China)	3	4	14	7	14	9	137	113	48	46	216	179
Middle East and North Africa	5	6	13	7	4	1	43	24	15	15	80	52
East and Central Asia	7	14	3	1	0	0	12	4	4	3	27	23
Latin America and Caribbean	0	0	11	5	3	1	20	10	17	17	51	33
Total	1,212	1,427	1,010	617	230	158	1,286	1,347	343	334	4,082	3,882

Source: World Development Report 2012 team estimates based on data from the World Health Organization and the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

TABLE
1

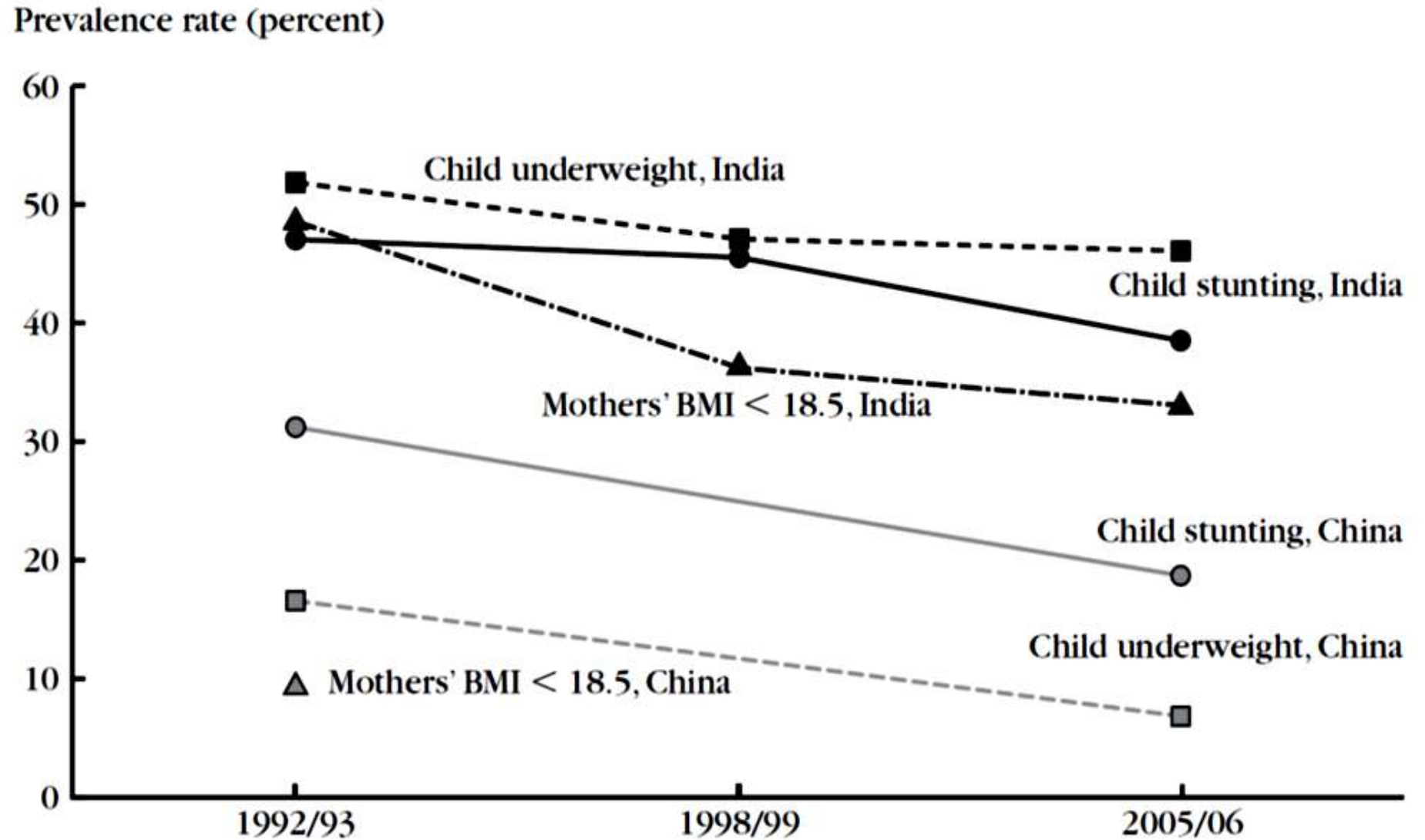
Levels and trends in the under-five mortality rate, by Millennium Development Goal region, 1990–2012 (deaths per 1,000 live births, unless otherwise indicated)

Progress MDG 2 www.childmortality.org

Region	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2012	MDG target 2015	Decline (percent) 1990–2012	Annual rate of reduction (percent)		
									1990–2012	1990–2000	2000–2012
Developed regions	15	11	10	8	7	6	5	57	3.8	3.9	3.8
Developing regions	99	93	83	69	57	53	33	47	2.9	1.8	3.8
Northern Africa	73	57	43	31	24	22	24	69	5.4	5.3	5.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	177	170	155	130	106	98	59	45	2.7	1.4	3.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	54	43	32	25	23	19	18	65	4.7	5.1	4.4
Caucasus and Central Asia	73	73	62	49	39	36	24	50	3.2	1.6	4.5
Eastern Asia	53	46	37	24	16	14	18	74	6.1	3.7	8.0
Excluding China	27	33	31	20	17	15	9	45	2.7	–1.2	5.9
Southern Asia	126	109	92	76	63	58	42	54	3.5	3.1	3.9
Excluding India	125	109	93	78	66	61	42	51	3.3	3.0	3.5
South-eastern Asia	71	58	48	38	33	30	24	57	3.9	3.9	3.8
Western Asia	65	54	42	34	26	25	22	62	4.4	4.4	4.5
Oceania	74	70	67	64	58	55	25	26	1.4	1.0	1.7
World	90	85	75	63	52	48	30	47	2.9	1.7	3.8

Note: All calculations are based on unrounded numbers.

Figure 4.1 Child stunting and underweight and mothers with low body mass indexes in China and India, 1992/93–2005/06



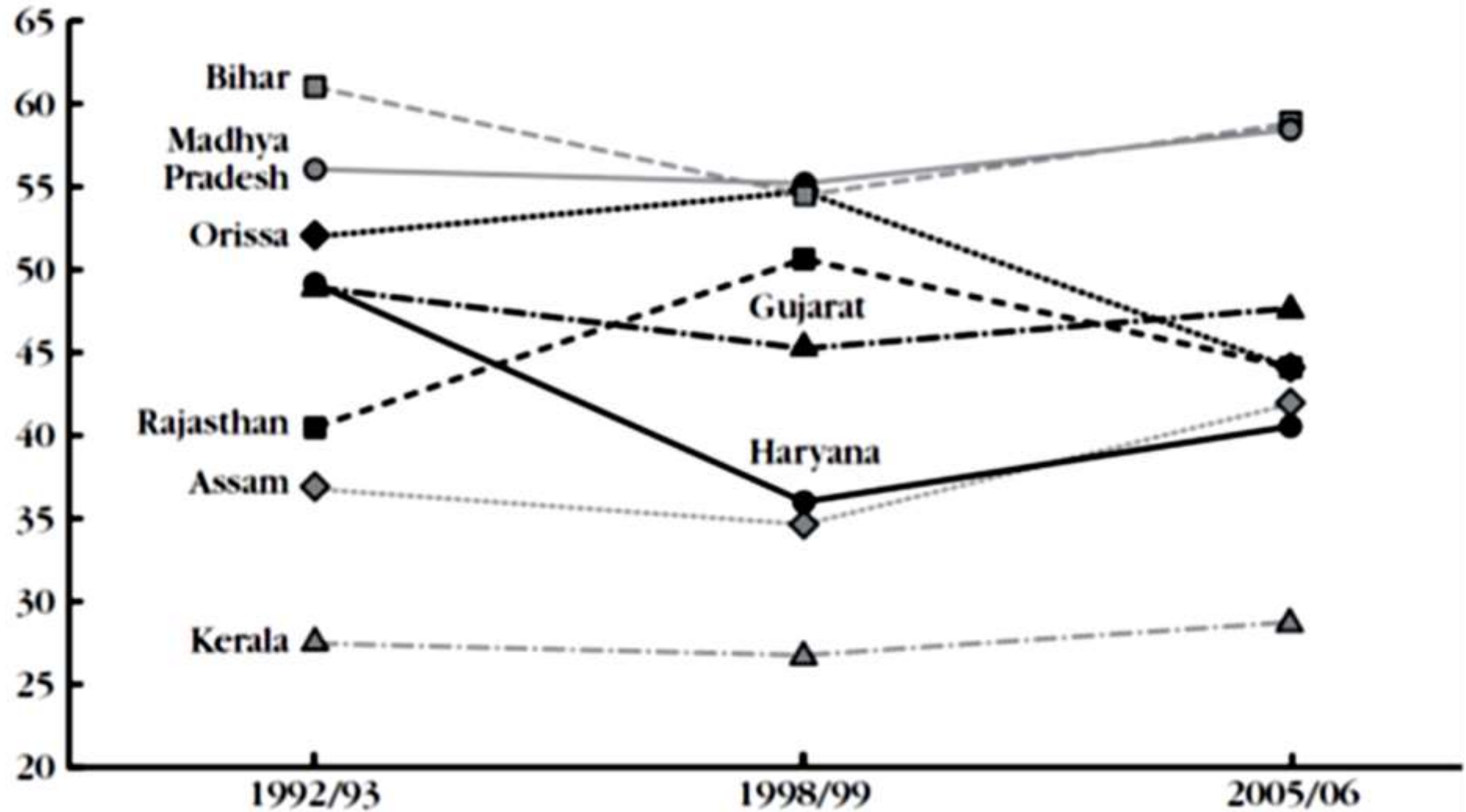
Source: Calculated by the author from national surveys.

Malnutrition
Mothers and
children:
Progress in
China and
India, but
China way
ahead

[\(Svedberg, IFPRI\)](#)

Figure 4.2 Child underweight in eight large Indian states where it increased a subperiod between 1992/93 and 2005/06

Prevalence rate (percent)

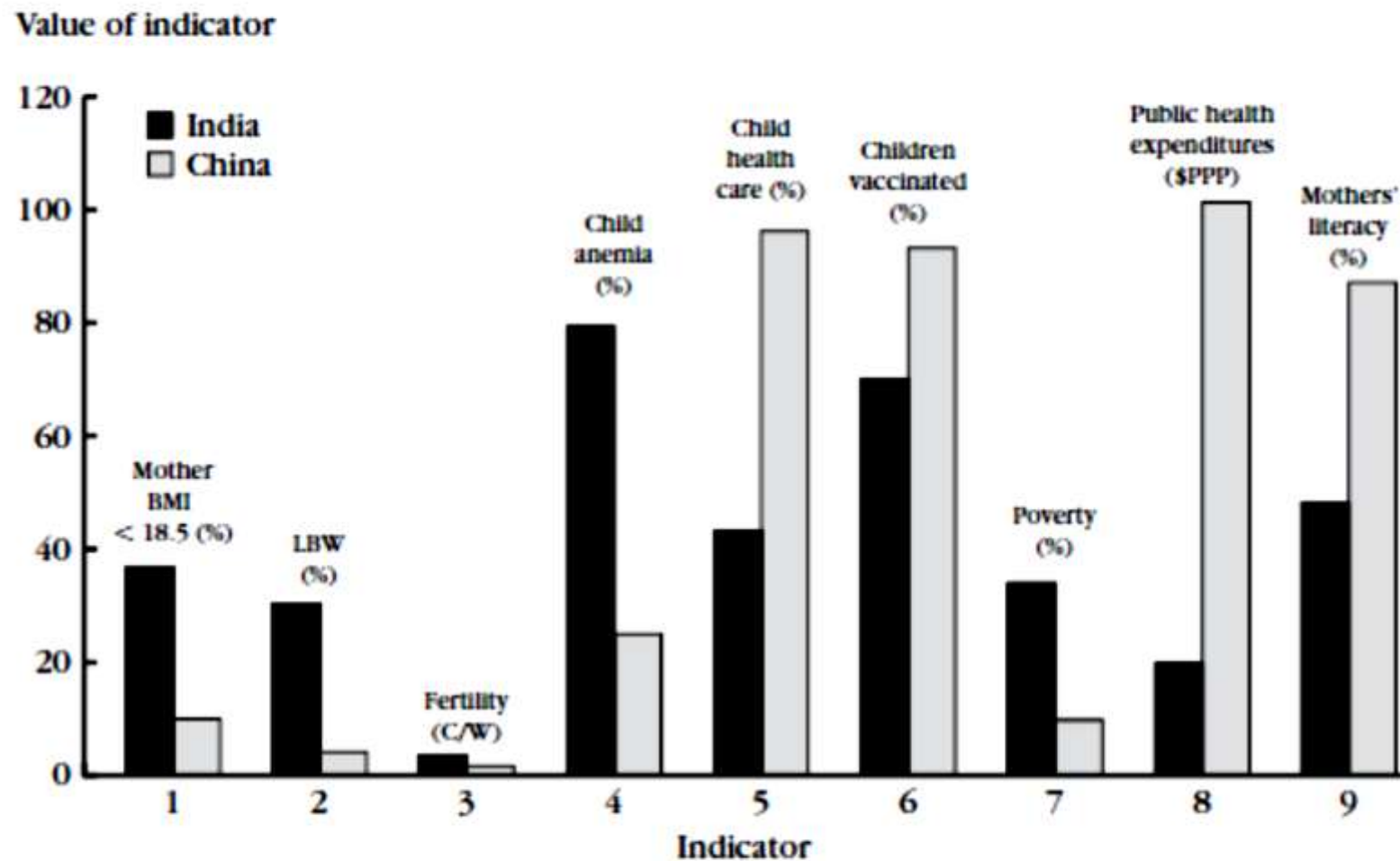


Source: Calculated by the author from national surveys.

Child
Malnutri
tion in
India vs
China vs
Kerala

[\(Svedberg, IFPRI\)](#)

Figure 4.3 Selected proximal and underlying determinants of child malnutrition in India and China, 2004 or closest year



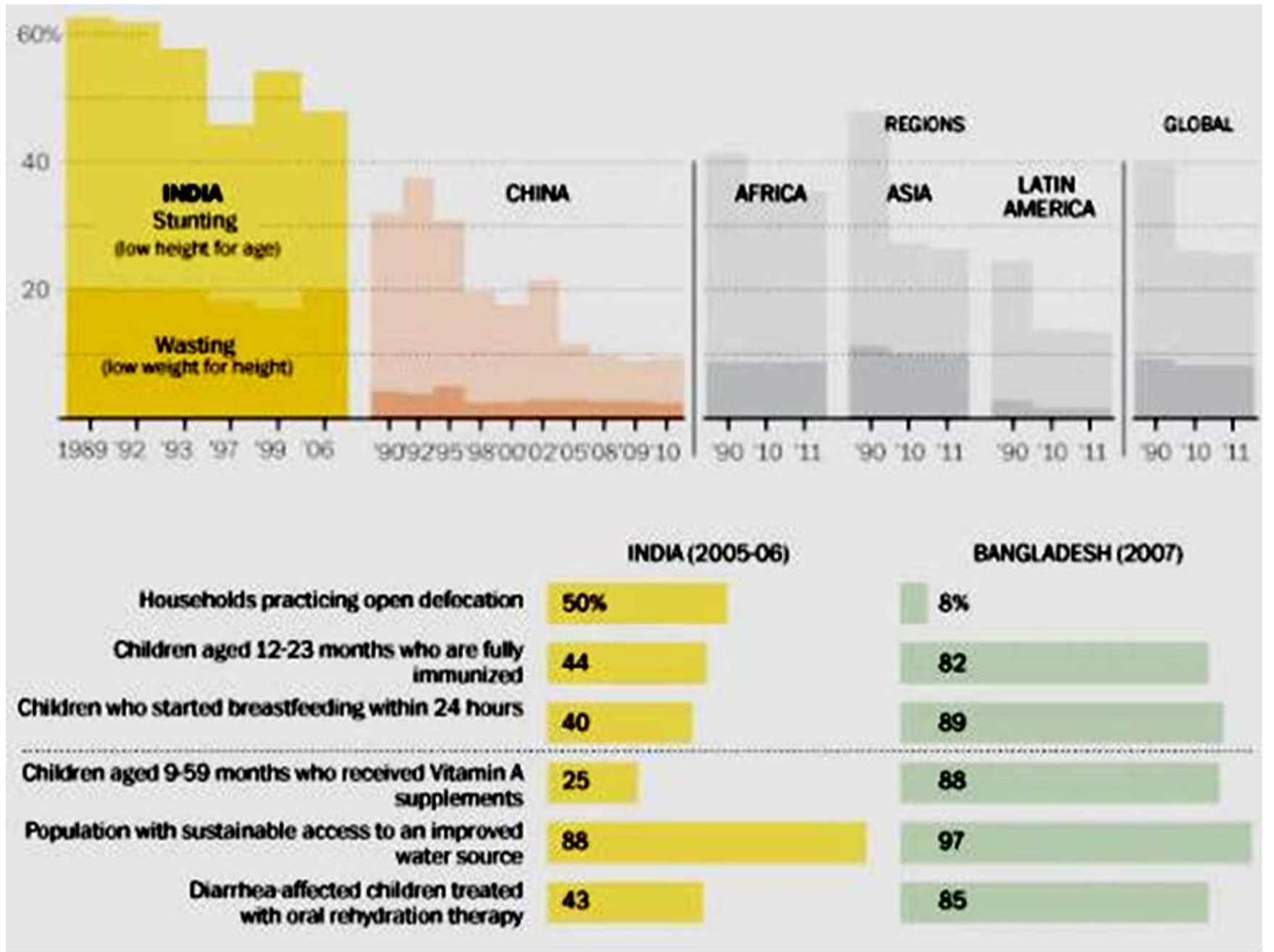
Source: Calculated by the author from national surveys and WHO (World Health Organization), *World health statistics 2007* (Geneva: WHO, 2008).

Note: BMI, body mass index; LBW, low birth weight; C/W, number of children per woman; PPP, purchasing power parity.

Malnutrition
India vs
China: public
health
matters

[\(Svedberg, IFPRI\)](#)

Malnutrition
 India vs
 Bangladesh
 (see
[Washington
 Post story](#))



How to help: conditional cash transfers



“I think Conditional Cash Transfer programs are as close as you can come to a magic bullet in development. They are creating an incentive for families to invest in their own children’s futures. Every decade or so, we see something that can really make a difference, and this is one of those things.”

Nancy Birdsall, Founding President / Center for Global Development

While waiting for CCTs (no CCTs in China)

- **South Asia, food for work or off season public works (EGS in India, Ethiopia's water conservation program)**
- **Microfinance in Bangladesh and India, especially when embedded in a safety net (see Roy on the Bangladesh consensus)**
- **Migration abroad: Kerala supported by remittances from immigrant working in the Middle East**

Girls Not Brides: child marriage NGO

- Girls not Brides 2014 [Skoll Foundation Awardee](#),
- Globally, 720 million women were married before their 18th birthday. Every year, they are joined by another 15 million under 18 brides.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, 40% of women are married before they are 18... common historically, but not now
- Early marriage makes it much less likely girls will work or attend school...

Child Marriage
rates high in
Bangladesh &
India and in
SSA, but not
garment
exporting ctys

Table WA-1 Child marriage: 10 highest-prevalence countries in the world in 2005-2010

% of women married at:	Age 15	Age 18
Niger	36	75
Central African Rep	29	68
Chad	29	68
Bangladesh	32	65
Guinea	20	63
Mali	15	55
Madagascar	14	48
Mozambique	21	56
India	18	47

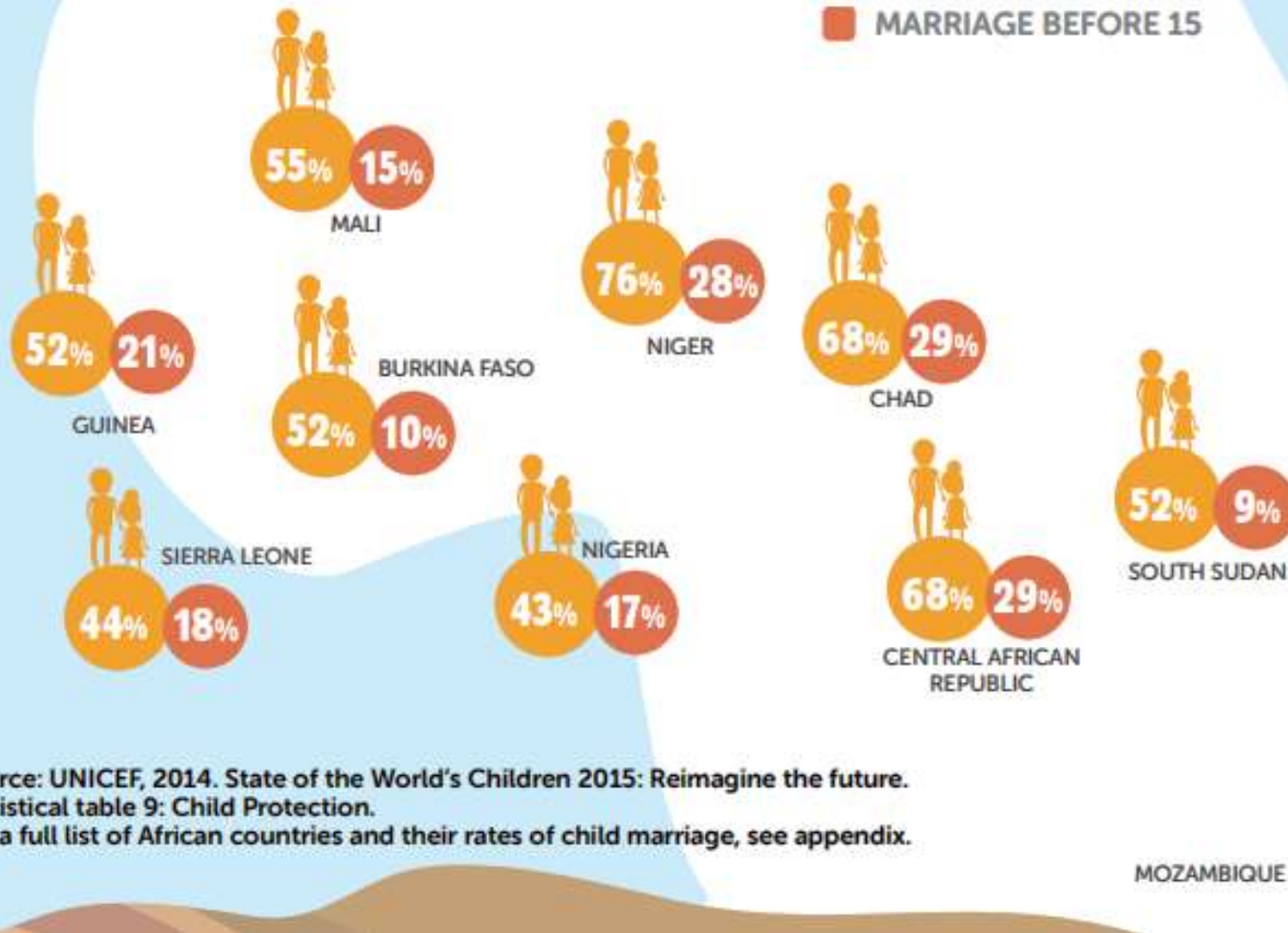
Source: Girls not Brides based on UNICEF SOWC 2012

http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/country/bangladesh/#_edn3

Ten child marriage hotspots in Africa:

Countries with the highest child marriage rates.

- MARRIAGE BEFORE 18
- MARRIAGE BEFORE 15



Source: Girls not Brides, 2015
[Ending child marriage in Africa](#)

Source: UNICEF, 2014. State of the World's Children 2015: Reimagine the future.
Statistical table 9: Child Protection.
For a full list of African countries and their rates of child marriage, see appendix.

Main causes of child marriage in Africa:

- **Acute poverty:** parents give a daughter in marriage to reduce expenses & temporarily increase income, parents paid a bride price.
- **Tradition:** child marriage persists for generations – straying from tradition could mean exclusion from the community.
- **Safety:** marrying a girl as a child is seen as a way to ensure her safety, in areas where girls are at high risk of physical or sexual assault.
- Crucially, **gender inequality** drives child marriage: in many communities girls are not valued as much as boys – they are considered to be a burden or commodity.

Impact: Child marriage holds back Africa

- Child marriage can have life-threatening health consequences for girls.
- Child marriage denies girls their right to education.
- Child marriage puts girls at risk of sexual, physical and psychological violence throughout their lives.
- As minors, child brides are rarely able to assert their wishes, such as whether to use family planning methods or practice safe sexual relations. Married girls can be particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

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<http://girlsnotbrides.theideabureau.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Child-marriage-in-Africa-A-brief-by-Girls-Not-Brides.pdf>
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