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Thesis Title: The Effect of Ramadan Observance during Pregnancy on Child Mortality and Pregnancy Termination

Abstract:

The ninth month in a Hijri calendar is the holy month of Islam, in which approximately 1.8 billion Muslims, 24% of the world population carried out an essential and mandatory practice of fasting by all Muslims men and women around the world. Seasonality is a potential confounder of Ramadan month because Ramadan moves forward roughly by 11 days each year according to Gregorian (Western) calendar. After 32 years, Ramadan completes one full Western circle. During fast Muslims are refrained from drinking or eating anything between dawn to dusk timings. In some conditions, they are exempt from fasting, especially pregnant women but they continue to like fast. The existing literature mainly focuses on the impact of starvation and later outcome on the growing fetus. Almond and Mazumdar, 2011 used the month of Ramadan as a natural experiment to analyze the fetal health during fasting and found the higher incidence of low birth weight babies and strong positive association in utero exposures to Ramadan in disability at an adult age, especially mental disability. In research, approximately eighty months of women pregnancy history are used to find a relationship in between restricted timing of maternal nutrition (*Ramadan Fasting*) during pregnancy on a growth of fetal development on pregnancy termination and under-5 child mortality.