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Research title: working title – Are we what we eat? The effect of malnutrition on the economy

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ABSTRACT

The ability to fulfill personal and professional potentials is based on more than will. Nutrition and adequate care at a young age have widespread consequences for economic and social development. While basic medical and nutritional care is understood to be important, developing communities do not have direct access to these programs offered by state. This paper investigates whether nutritional status at early age, as measured by the availability and access to age-appropriate foods, affects the society and economy a few years later among children using panel data from Costa Rica, Pakistan and Ghana. The key research question is the extent to which early age development has an effect on widespread economic performance, and what family and community level factors have a contribution to these results. The answer to this question is the essence of public policy for early child development state programs due to the long term consequences of poor childhood nutrition. Widespread understanding of the relationship between economic development and schooling has overshadowed that between economic development and health. A positive correlation between health and economic prosperity has been widely documented, but the extent to which this reflects a causal effect of health on economic outcomes is very controversial. This statistical study will cover a mathematical approach to understanding the correlation values for each variable.