

Beyond the Poverty Line: Predicting Maternal Mortality in India

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Motivation

- ❖ More specific targeting of public health schemes
- allocation of scarce resources
- ❖ Currently, most schemes are targeted at Below-Poverty-Line (BPL) families.
- ❖ While the poorest states have the worst maternal mortality, the richest states do not have the best - what are the other key determinants? (**Bender, Theodossiou 2009, Munshi et al. 2016, Clemson et al. 2000**)

Research Question

- ❖ What are the key predictors of maternal mortality in India?

Data

- ❖ National Family Health Survey (NFHS):
~20,000 families - Individual-level variables such as previous pregnancies, lifestyle, access to healthcare, income, etc.
- ❖ District Level Health Survey (DLHS):
district-level variables such as sanitation, spread of govt. hospitals, per capita income, access to public health schemes, etc.

Methodology

- ❖ Key Methods
 - ❖ Logistic Regression
 - ❖ Decision Trees
 - ❖ Comparison of predictive ability of individual-level characteristics versus district-level characteristics
 - ❖ **(Song, et al. 2004, Liu et al. 2014)**

Questions?