

# The association between household economic status and body mass index among women in Bangladesh

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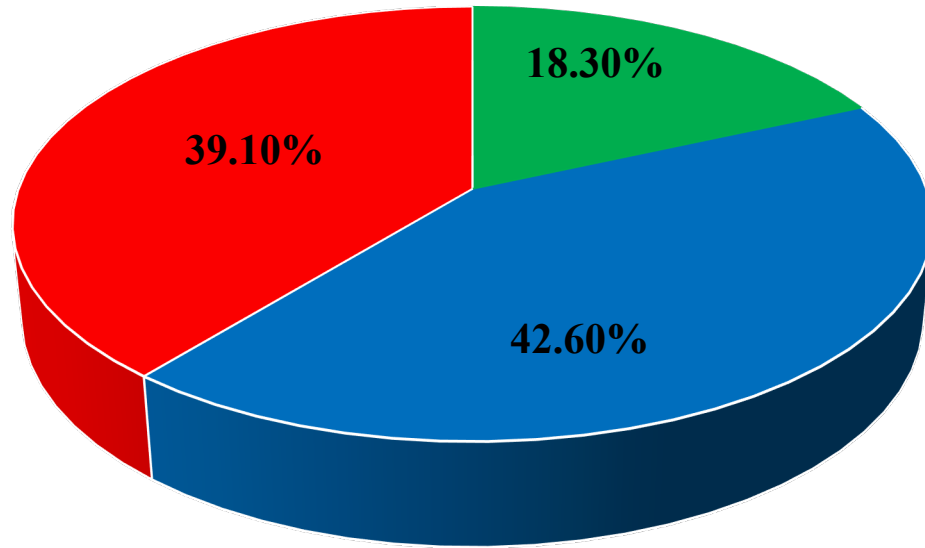
**OBJECTIVE:** This study investigated the association between household economic status and body mass index (BMI) among Bangladeshi women of reproductive age (15-49 years).

# Methods

- **Data Source:** Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014
- **Outcome variable:** BMI (measured in  $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ )
  - ✓ Categorized according to an Asia specific BMI cut off
  - ✓ Underweight:  $<18.5 \text{ kg}/\text{m}^2$ ; Normal weight:  $18.5\text{-}22.99 \text{ kg}/\text{m}^2$ ; Overweight/obesity:  $\geq 23.0 \text{ kg}/\text{m}^2$
- **Exposure of Interest:** Household economic status
  - ✓ Wealth index was constructed using principal component analyses
  - ✓ Wealth index was categorized into five quintiles: poorest, poorer, middle, richer, richest
- **Data Analyses:**
  - ✓ Multivariable logistic regression was conducted.
  - ✓ Adjusted for age, highest educational attainment, place and division of residence, parity, marital status, number of household members in the family

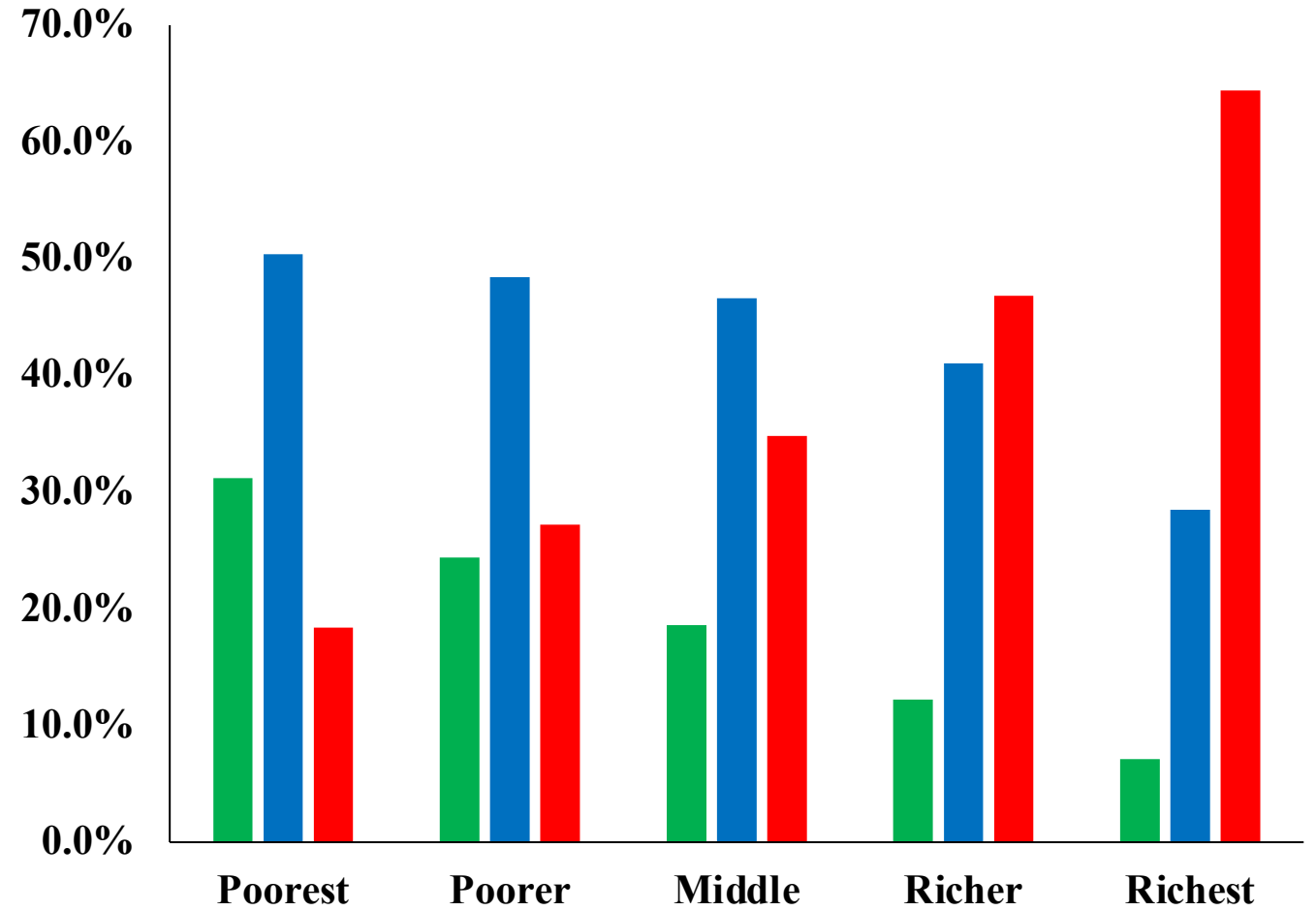
# Results

Proportion of BMI categories among total study population (N=17,421)



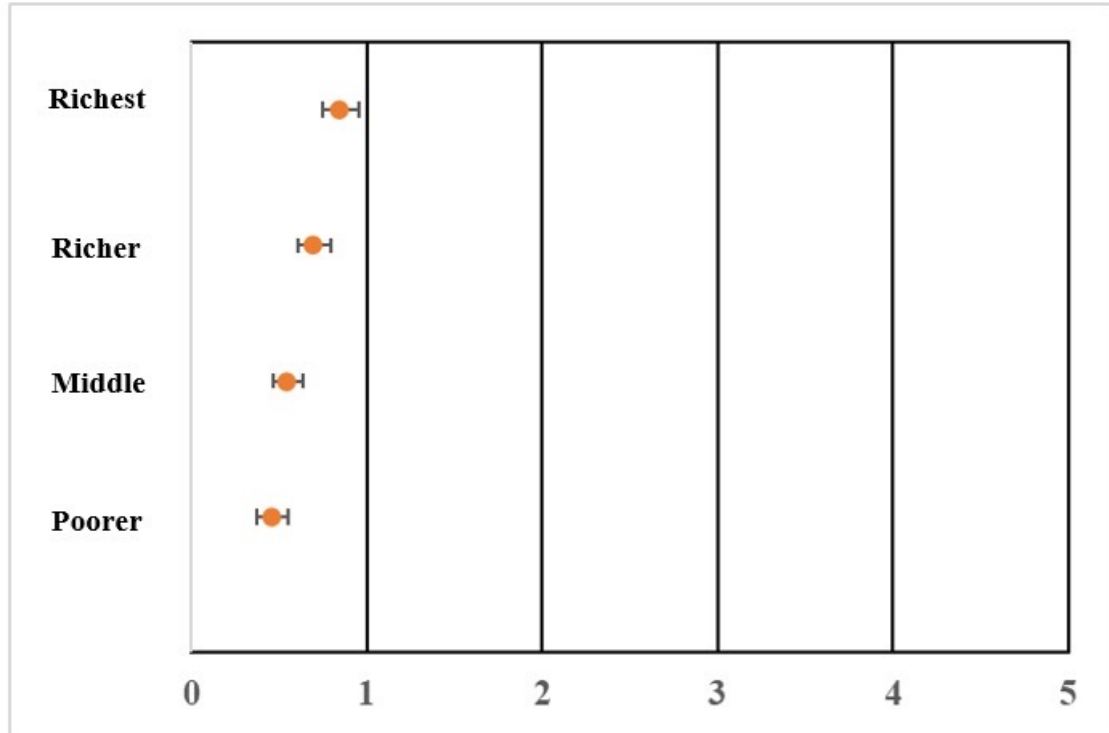
■ Underweight      ■ Normal Weight  
■ Overweight/Obesity

BMI categories stratified by wealth quintiles

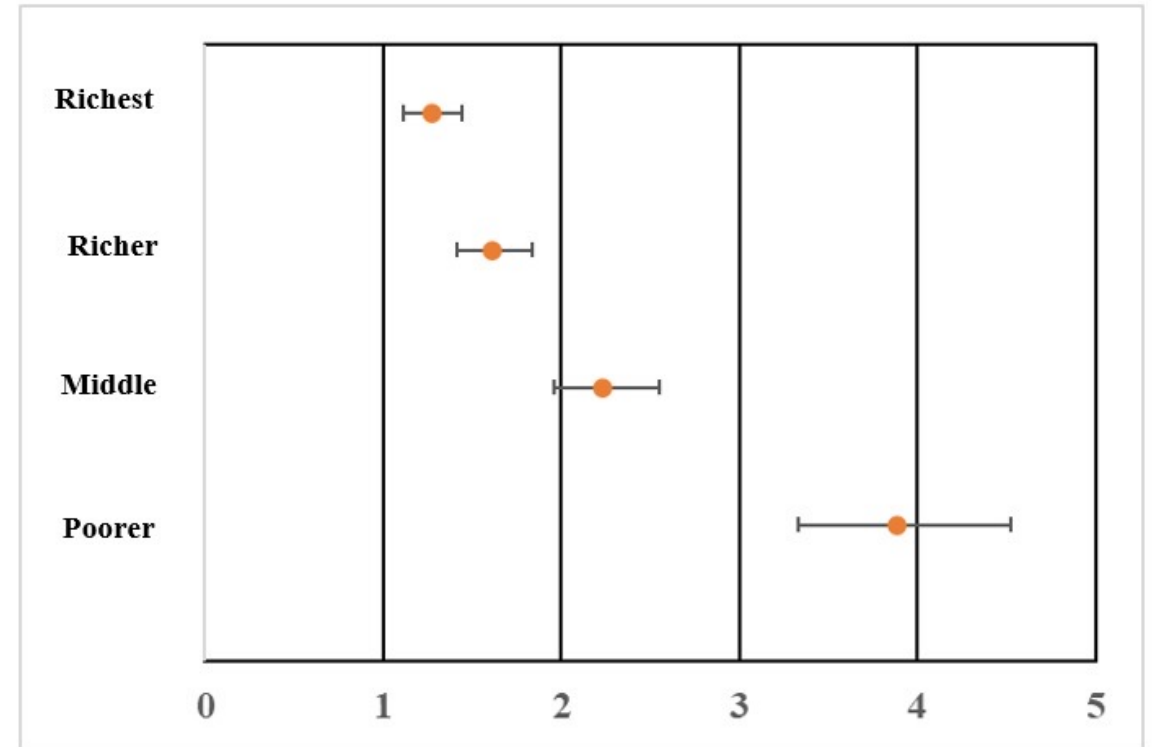


■ Underweight      ■ Normal Weight      ■ Overweight/Obesity

# Results



**Association between household economic status and underweight (The poorest wealth quintile was considered as referent group)**



**Association between household economic status and overweight/obesity (The poorest wealth quintile was considered as referent group)**

# Conclusion

- Overweight/obesity consistently increased with increasing wealth index among women of reproductive age in Bangladesh
  - These results contrast upper income countries (i.e.: US), where obesity is more concentrated in lower socioeconomic groups
  - Food insecurity may play a role
- Achieving greater insight into the international differences in the association between wealth and BMI may generate strategies to control the growing prevalence of obesity globally