**S1 Appendix: Variable description file**

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| **Sr. No.** | **Control variables** | **Category** |
| 1 | Cooking fuel | 1. **Solid** (Coal, lignite, charcoal, wood, straw/shrubs/grass, agricultural crop and animal dung)2. **Other** (Electricity, LPG, biogas and kerosene) |
| 2.  | Type of toilet facility | 1. **Improved and not shared** (Flush toilet to piped sewer system, to septic tank or to pit latrine; Pit toilet latrine ventilated improved pit (VIP) or with slab and Composting toilet)2. **Unimproved** (Flush to somewhere else or don’t know where; Pit latrine without slab/open pit; No facility/uses bush/field; Dry toilet; Other) |
| 3.  | Source of drinking water | 1. **Improved** (Piped water into dwelling or to yard/plot; Public tap/standpipe; Tube well or borehole; Protected well; Protected spring and Bottled water; Rain water)2. **Unimproved** (Unprotected dug well; Unprotected well; Unprotected spring; River/dam/lake/ponds/stream/canal/irrigation channel; Tanker truck; Cart with small tank; Other) |
| 4 | Age of child (in months) | 1. 12-352. 36-59 |
| 5 | Sex of child | 1. Male2. Female |
| 6 | Size of child at birth | 1. Average or larger2. Smaller than average |
| 7 | Literacy status of mother | 1. Illiterate2. Literate |
| 8 | Mother exposed to mass media | 1. Not exposed (Neither watch TV nor listen radio nor read magazine)2. Exposed to (Either watch TV or listen radio or read magazine) |
| 9 | Religion1 | 1. Main2. Other |
| 10 | Caste2 | 1. Scheduled Caste (SC)2. Scheduled Tribe (ST)3. Other |
| 11 | Wealth status | 1. Poor2. Middle3. Rich |
| 12 | Place of residence | 1. Urban2. Rural |

1 termed as main if followed in the majority of households in the particular country (Christian in Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia, Hindu in India and Islam in Nigeria).

2 Included as control variable only in the analysis for India.