ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES FOR NUTRITION SURVEYS

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The common thread that runs through various statistical techniques is an attempt to draw out the relationships that may exist between two or among a set of variables in order to explain the problem investigated, or for forecasting. Nutrition surveys are here used as an example.

Exploratory data analysis has to be done mostly through tabulation of data. Hypothesis testing, categorical data analysis and correlation analysis are some of the most commonly used basic statistical techniques. Depending on whether independent variables are continuous, categorical or a mixture of both, the advanced statistical techniques of regression analysis, analysis of variance and analysis of covariance are employed. However the 2nd and 3rd methods can be expressed as an extension of regression analysis. Probit or logit analysis will be used when the dependent variable is categorical.

In those cases where multicollinearity exists among independent variables more advanced multivariate techniques will be preferred.

This paper emphasises the importance of using advanced statistical techniques in achieving the objectives of nutrition surveys.