

Title: Determinants of household's decisions on insecticide-treated mosquito net in Vietnam

Abstract:

Vietnam is a vulnerable country to malaria disease. Although insecticide-treated mosquito net (ITN) has shown to reduce malaria transmission effectively in epidemic regions, the adoption of ITN is still limited in Vietnamese households. This paper contributes an in-depth study about the determinants of household's decisions on the ITN ownership and re-treatment behaviours in Vietnam, which is left unanswered in the existing literature. We conduct a cross-sectional regression analysis, exploiting household-level microdata from a nationally representative sample of 6337 households. Our main findings are summarized as follows. First, households who experienced higher risk in the past are more likely to own an ITN but are less likely to re-treat their nets within the recommended period. Notably, our study confirms a heterogeneity in the impact of actual malaria risk on the ITN-decisions, i.e., at the same level of malaria risk, households with different demographic characteristics will respond differently to ITN. Second, more educated household heads have more incentives to adopt behaviours towards ITN, highlighting the importance of education in increasing the ITN-adoption rate. Third, exposure to media as a proxy of the accessibility to malaria information is positively associated with both decisions. This result suggests that mass media campaigns can be effective health communication channels to encourage the nationwide adoption of ITN.