Coping with the costs of illness in slum households in Bangladesh. An empirical analysis of the relationship between income distribution and household behaviour
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Sen A. On Economic Inequality. The Radcliffe Lectures delivered in the University of Warwick. Clarendon Press. Oxford, 1973, 29-31. "The Lorenz curve is a curve whereby the percentages of the population arranged from the poorest to the richest are represented on the horizontal axis and the percentages of income enjoyed by the bottom x% of the population is shown on the vertical axis. If everyone has the same income the Lorenz curve will be simply the diagonal, but in the absence of perfect equality, the bottom income groups a proportionately lower share of income. Therefore, it is obvious that any Lorenz curve must lie below the diagonal (except the one of complete equality which would be the diagonal), and its slope will increasingly rise as we move to richer and richer sections of the population." (p.30)

The Gini coefficient, G, is the ratio of the difference between the line of absolute equality (the diagonal) and the Lorenz curve to the triangular region underneath the diagonal. (p.30) The formula is:

\[ G = 1 + \frac{1}{n} - \frac{2}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( y_i - y_{i+1} \right)^2 \]

for \( y_1 \geq y_2 \geq \ldots \geq y_n \) (p.31). The Gini-coefficient has always a value between 0 (perfect equality) and 1 (total inequality).


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