

Table 2 Distribution of maternal characteristics by food security status, rural Minia

Maternal characteristics		Food secure (n = 151)	Food insecure* (n = 346)	Test statistic	P value
Mother's age (yr)	Mean (SD) (range)	29.26 (5.41) (19.0–41.0)	29.10 (5.55) (19.0–47.0)	t 0.3	0.764
Marital status, n	Married	151 (100%)	334 (96.5%)	Fisher's exact 4.97	0.072
	Divorced	0	9 (2.6%)		
	Widowed	0	3 (0.9%)		
Education level of mother, n (%)					
Illiterate		19 (12.6%)	98 (28.3%)	χ^2 51.44	< 0.001
Below secondary		19 (12.6%)	63 (18.2%)		
Secondary/intermediate institutes		84 (55.6%)	176 (50.9%)		
University/postgraduate		29 (19.2%)	9 (2.6%)		
Working status of mother, n (%)					
Housewife		121 (80.1%)	324 (93.6%)	χ^2 20.48	< 0.001
Working		30 (19.9%)	022 (6.4%)		
Education level of husband, n (%)					
Illiterate		9 (6%)	68 (19.7%)	χ^2 72.41	< 0.001
Below secondary		11 (7.3%)	80 (23.1%)		
Secondary/intermediate institutes		87 (57.6%)	178 (51.4%)		
University/postgraduate		44 (29.1%)	20 (5.8%)		
Working status of husband, n (%)					
Not working		0 (0.0%)	7 (2%)	χ^2 63.947	< 0.001
Unskilled manual worker		16 (10.6%)	81 (23.4%)		
Skilled manual worker		66 (43.7%)	2 (57.8%)		
Trades/business		26 (17.2%)	22 (6.4%)		
Semiprofessional/clerk		17 (11.3%)	28 (8.1%)		
Professional		26 (17.2%)	8 (2.3%)		

*Category includes mildly, moderately and severely food insecure.
SD = standard deviation.