

Social and Environmental Correlates of Childhood Diarrhea – A Longitudinal Study

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ABSTRACT A community based longitudinal study has been undertaken to understand the effect of social and environmental factors on the incidence of childhood diarrhea. Three hundred and twenty children aged under five in Rahmathnagar slum in Hyderabad in India were followed up for a period of one year. About fifty-five percent of children develop atleast one episode of diarrhea during the study period. Attack rate of was diarrhea was found to be 1.64 episodes child/year. Among the social factors religion, maternal literacy, family size and family income had significant effect on incidence of diarrhea. The influence of environmental factors like source and storage of drinking water and hand washing practices is also analysed.