

Anthropometrically Determined Malnutrition Among Preschool Children in an Integrated Child Development Services Block of Gajapati District, Orissa

Gandham Bulliyya

KEY WORDS Integrated Child Development Services. Protein-Energy Malnutrition. Preschool Children. Gajapati District. Orissa.

ABSTRACT The purpose of this paper was to assess the growth and nutritional status of infants and school children fed ICDS diets and children of whom received ICDS supplementary nutrition. AWC were established with a view to increase the nutritional status among preschool children aged below 6-years. For this study, data has been collected from ICDS Centre in Gumma block of Gajapati district for the year 2001. The data was analyzed statistically and compared with the data available from the state of Orissa. The results indicate that 38.1%, 39.8%, 21.3% and 0.8% of children are normal, grade-I, grade-II and grade-III&IV malnutrition respectively. Out of total 55.6% and 66.7% of infants and preschool children respectively suffer from varying grades of malnutrition. The prevalence is consistently increased with increase in age from 0-6 years. Female children are behind their male peers. Malnutrition among preschool children continue to be the wide prevalent problem and comparable to those of their rural counterparts. The impact of supplementary nutrition programme on young children seems to be negligible in an area with socially deprived groups. In order to achieve the national goals adopted for child development, there is a definite need to further strengthening the existing ICDS system with targeted time-bound objectives.

Author's Address: **Gandham Bulliyya**, *Research Officer*, Regional Medical Research Centre, Indian Council of Medical Research, Bhubaneswar 751 023, Orissa, India
Tel: +674-301699, Fax: +91-674-301351 Email: rmrdir@sanchar.net.in