

Impact of Habitation on Underweight among Shabar Preschool Children in Orissa

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ABSTRACT This cross-sectional study was undertaken to explore habitation-wise (urban, rural and forest) difference of underweight prevalence in Shabar preschool children and its associated factors. Data comprised of 167 children aged 0 to 5 years. Highest prevalence of underweight was found in the rural (60.0%) and least among the forest children. Higher birth order, illiteracy, mother's undernutrition, poor economy, larger family size and inadequate breast-feeding may have associated with underweight, but highest magnitude was observed among the rural group who are in transition. Study reveals urgent need of nutritional intervention among the rural Shabar children for getting nutritionally advantageous community.