

Assessment of Nutritional Status among 2 to 12 Years Children of Two Districts in West Bengal, India

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ABSTRACT The present study aims to provide the prevalence of thinness among children. The cross-sectional study using weight and stature were conducted on a sample of 2,310 children (1,144 boys and 1,166 girls) aged 2 to 12 years. Participants and their caretakers were informed about the objectives of the study prior to commencement of the study. Overall prevalence of under-nutrition shows that both boys (62.2%) and girls (62.6%) have very high (critical situation) prevalence of thinness. Highest prevalence of thinness among boys was found at the age of 8 years (67.6%) and among girls at age 4 years (82.2%). This study exemplifies the magnitude of childhood under-nutrition (thinness) in the above studied area. A similar study will serve as a resource for future child health interventions in the said areas. To fight under-nutrition among children, an integrated approach is recommended, combining effective community outreach and monitoring, nutrition therapy and expanded partnerships with nutrition-related organizations in the region.