

**C03****Nutritional status and associated factors of resettled children under - five years of age in Iyakkachchi, Kilinochchi**

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Children are future pillars of rapid growing world, and their growth, nutrition, development, and well being are greatly monitored. However, the nutritional status of children in poor communities is still underprivileged in Sri Lanka. Therefore, this study was aimed to determine the nutritional status and associated factors among children less than five years in Iyakkachchi, a resettled population after a clearance of high security zones. In this descriptive cross-sectional study design, 43 children were selected from Iyakkachchi [Grama Niladhari division (Kn/079)]. An interviewer administered questionnaire was used to obtain the details regarding socio demographic and economic factors and breastfeeding practices. Anthropometry measurements and haemoglobin (Hb) levels (Haemacue 201+) were obtained. Among the total, 46.5% (n=20) were males. The mean ( $\pm$ SD) age of the children was  $33.3 \pm 16.7$  months with the range of 5 months to 59 months. Mean ( $\pm$ SD) weight and height were  $11.2 \pm 2.8$  kg (6.12 to 18.8 kg) and  $87.9 \pm 1.2$  cm (64 to 109 cm) respectively and it was increased with age. Mean ( $\pm$ SD) mid upper arm circumference was  $14.9 \pm 1.1$  cm with the range of 12.8 to 17.8 cm. The mean body fat percentage was  $9.3 \pm 1.9$  in and  $14.0 \pm 1.8$  in males and females respectively ( $p < 0.01$ ). The prevalence of mild (-2SD to -1SD) and moderate (-3 SD to -2 SD) stunting was 32.6 (n=14) and 18.6% (n=8) respectively. In this study, 11.6% (n=5) had wasting (-2SD to -1SD) and 2.3% (n=1) had overweight ( $> +2SD$  to  $+3SD$ ). The mean ( $\pm$ SD) Hb was  $10.4 \pm 1.2$  g/dL. The prevalence of anemia was 69.8% (n=30) ( $< 11$ g/dL of Hb concentration). Among them 46.6% had moderate anemia (7 - 8.9 g/dL) and 53.3% had mild anemia (9-10.9 g/dL). The prevalence of low birth weight (LBW) was 7% (n=3). The rate of Exclusive breastfeeding was 100%. Less than 2 year old children were highly affected with under nutrition (40.5%) when compared to children above two years old (37%). The low maternal educational state, low income of the family, and low birth weight ( $p < 0.05$ ) were significantly associated with the malnutrition. This study revealed that, resettled children in Iyakkachchi have highly affected with chronic malnutrition and it was influenced by several factors. Their fat percentage was inadequate. Also this study exhibits that, children had high prevalence anemia.

**Keywords:** Nutritional status, Anemia, Chronic malnutrition, Anthropometry and Fat percentage