KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND FEEDING PRACTICES AMONG THE MOTHERS HAVING UNDER-5 CHILDREN IN A RURAL COMMUNITY OF BANGLADESH

To the Editor

Maternal education is significantly related to early childhood morbidity and mortality. In Bangladesh, most mothers do not have a correct knowledge on exclusive breastfeeding and the appropriate time for introduction of weaning foods; and only 3% of them know how to prepare proper weaning foods. Another study conducted in the rural population reported that according to Gomez classification, 96% of children had varying degrees of protein energy malnutrition (PEM) (28.4% mild, 58.2% moderate and 9.2% severe). Timely weaning, education and promotion of essential vaccination may reduce childhood malnutrition, especially severe PEM. It has also been reported that the prevalence of breastfeeding in Bangladesh is one of the highest in the world where diarrheal diseases are hyper-endemic and issues of malnutrition, especially severe PEM. It may be concluded that about one-fourth of the rural mothers were illiterate though the feeding practices for their children during fever and diarrhea were satisfactory (70 – 88%). As regards weaning practices, about 38% were found not giving their babies supplementary food and almost one-third did not know the beneficial effects of fruits and vegetables for their babies. The low income and high illiteracy among rural mothers were found to affect the rearing practices and also nutrition during pregnancy and lactation. More studies are needed to confirm our findings and it is important to initiate programs for educating mothers with special emphasis on energy dense food during pregnancy and lactation and to emphasize the requirements of fruits and vegetables.

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References

NUTRITIONAL STATUS, PROTEINURIA AND GLYCOSURIA AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN A RURAL COMMUNITY OF BANGLADESH

To the Editor

Nutritional status of primary school children in rural Bangladesh has not been addressed in the past. Nor there was any published report on the prevalence of glycosuria and proteinuria in this group. Detection of proteinuria is an easy method to detect disease like glomerulonephritis in children. Glycosuria indicates several underlying pathological conditions like – diabetes mellitus and tubulo-interstitial disorders. This study was undertaken to determine the nutritional status amongst the primary school children in addition to screening for proteinuria and glycosuria.

This cross sectional study was conducted in the purposively selected four primary schools situated in 4 villages of Sreepur Thana. The