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Title: Dietary pattern and anthropometry of pre-school ethnic children**Khaleda Islam**

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Nutritional status is a sensitive indicator of community health and nutrition among preschool children, especially the prevalence of undernutrition that affects all dimensions of human development and leads to growth faltering in early life. The present study is an attempt to assess the food intake pattern and nutritional status of pre-school Chakma tribe children. It was a cross sectional community-based study. The subjects were selected purposively. This study was conducted at sadar Thana of Rangmati. Rangamati is located in the Chittagong Division. Anthropometric data of height and weight of the study subjects were collected by standard techniques. Nutritional status was measured using Z score according to WHO classification. Statistical analyses were performed by appropriate univariate and multivariate techniques using SPSS windows 11.5. Moderate (-3SD to <-2SD) to severe underweight (<-3SD) were 23.8% and 76.2% study subjects had normal weight for their age. Moderate (-3SD to <-2SD) to severe (<-3SD) stunted children were only 25.6% and 74.4% children were normal and moderate to severe wasting were 14.7% whereas normal child was 85.3%. Significant association had been found between child nutritional status and monthly family income, mother education and occupation of father & mother. Age, sex of children and incomes of the family, education of mother and occupation of father were significantly associated with WAZ and HAZ of the study subjects ($p=0.0001$, $p=0.025$, $p=0.001$ and $p=0.0001$, $p=0.003$, $p=0.031$, $p=0.092$, $p=0.008$). Majority of study subjects took local small fish and some traditional tribal food like bamboo root, jhijhiinsects and pork were very much popular food among tribal children. Energy, carbohydrate & fat intake was significantly associated with HAZ, WAZ, BAZ (BMI for age Z-score) and MUACZ. This study demonstrates that malnutrition among tribal children in Bangladesh is much lower than national scenario in Bangladesh. Significant association was found between child nutritional status and family monthly income, mother education and occupation of father & mother. Most of the study subjects took local small fish and some traditional tribal food. Significant association was also found between child nutritional status and dietary intake of energy, carbohydrate and fat.

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