

**NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF PRE SCHOOL  
CHILDREN AGED BELOW 5 YEARS IN  
MANMUNAI SOUTH ERUVIL PATTU  
DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT**



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## Abstract

In Sri Lanka, the state of malnutrition among children are unfavorable (UNICEF,1998). The situation may worse in Batticaloa District where civil war exists. Therefore, this study was conducted to assess nutritional situation of pre school children aged 0 to 5 years in Batticaloa Manmunai South Eruvil Pattu Divisional Secretariat Division . A sample of 150 subjects was selected from all as Tsunami refugee Camps through multi stage sampling. Anthropometric measurements were performed using standardized procedure on the pre school children. Weight and Height were measured. Anthropometric indices such as height-for-age, Weight-for-height and Weight-for-age were generated. Information on socioeconomic characteristic of household and dietary pattern of children was gathered by an interview schedule, which includes food frequency questionnaire.

Children showed a considerable risk for being stunted (75%), and under weight (74%). Girls had higher risk than that of boys. Prevalence of malnutrition is higher in all as Tsunami Refugee Camps.

Among the tested individuals 65%of the families had been displaced due to Tsunami and still 27% of families live in refugee camps. Fifty four percent of children's families receive food aids or food stamps from government. Most of their parent's income level was under the poverty line of Rs 3,000 per month. About 41% of parents education level is below the G.C.E.O/L and rate of illiteracy of them is 11%. The student's frequency of intake of meat is at monthly basis and they consume egg, milk and fruit at fortnightly basis. Nutritional status of pre school children aged between 0 to 5 years in the Batticaloa Manmunai South Eruvil Pattu DS Division is poor and the civil unrest to be associated with malnutrition of children.

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