



### ABSTRACT

Anaemia has been considered a major health problem among pregnant women. The prevalence of anaemia was evaluated in 229 pregnant women in the Divisional Director of Health Service area Dankotuwa, using clinical and biochemical parameters.

Further to this the characteristics of the anaemic pregnant mothers were compared with the non anaemics to find out risk factors of anaemia if any. Clinical diagnosis of anaemia was validated as a screening test for anaemia. Also the CUSO<sub>4</sub> method was tested out on all the 229 pregnant mothers to see its reliability as a screening test for anaemia in the primary care level.

Prevalence of anaemia was determined as 14.4% at a cut off point of 11g/dl of Haemoglobin. The cyanmethaemoglobin method was used to determine the Haemoglobin levels.

A POA of more than 20 weeks at first visit to the ANC was significantly associated with anaemia.

There was no significant association between family size, educational level, average birth interval, average family income, hook worm infection and malaria with anaemia.

No significant association existed between hook worm infection

and the absence of a latrine.

Clinical assessment of anaemia using pallor of tongue was not reliable to be used as a screening test for anemia at a cut off point of 11g/dl of haemoglobin.

However pallor of conjunctiva was found to be a better method for screening of anaemia at the cut off point of haemoglobin used in this study.

Although the CUSO<sub>4</sub> technique was found to be a reliable screening test for anaemia at primary health care level it needs in depth study to further ascertain its reliability.