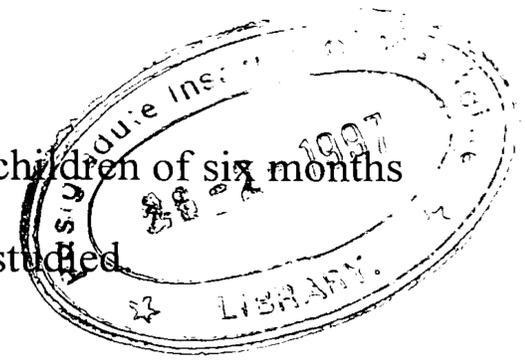


# SUMMARY

The prevalence and factors influencing growth retardation of children of six months to three years among low income families in Kotte MOH area were studied.



Two methods were used to collect data.

- i. Taking anthropometric measurements - weight, height, head circumference, chest circumference, mid arm circumference.
- ii. Administering a questionnaire to the mothers / caretakers of the children.

Data collected by anthropometry were analysed to find the prevalence of growth retardation. The results were presented according to Waterlow and Gomez classification. The prevalence of growth retardation according to Waterlow classification was 44%. This is terms of wasting was 29% , stunting 9% and concurrent stunting and wasting 6%. According to Gomez's classification the prevalence of growth retardation was 41%.

The association between certain factors and growth retardation were studied. Wasting was found to be associated with maternal/caretaker's knowledge on growth and nutrition knowledge and also with short birth interval. There associations were statistically significant.

Stunting was shown to be significantly associated with maternal/caretaker's knowledge on growth and nutrition and age of the child. None of the other factors studied such as sex of the child parents education ,parents literacy, breast feeding, introduction of time of complementary feeding, birth weight, birth order, infections, source of water supply, latrine facilities did not show any significant association with any type of malnutrition.