

SUMMARY

The study was conducted with the objectives of finding the prevalence of acute diarrhoeal disorders among children aged 2 – 5 years in the estate population and to study the knowledge and practices of mothers regarding acute diarrhoeal disorders and to describe some socio-economic factors of these families.

It was conducted from the 10th to 18th of July, 2000 in two selected estates in Hunnasgiriya. A total of 193 children took part in the study and the information was collected by using an interviewer administered questionnaire. Informants were mothers, fathers or guardians of the study population.

Literacy rate of the mothers of these children was lower than the female literacy rate of Sri Lanka. Level of education among the mothers too revealed a similar picture.

Majority of mothers had a good knowledge regarding diarrhoea, ORS and dehydration as well as good practices in dealing with acute diarrhoeal disorders based on my study.

There was a significant difference in knowledge regarding “Jeewani” between literate and illiterate mothers and also between mothers with formal and mothers with no formal education at $P=0.05$ level. There was a significant difference in practices in dealing with acute diarrhoeal disorders between literate and illiterate mothers at $P=0.05$ level. Majority of mothers restricted food during diarrhoeal episodes.

Inability to generalise the results of this study to the overall estate population of Sri Lanka is a limitation.