

7. SUMMARY

Health of school going child should be promoted and maintained to achieve maximum benefit from education. The coverage of school medical inspections at present is highly inadequate owing to lack of health personnel.

This study explored the feasibility of using the services of teachers to detect some common selected health problems.

Twenty five school teachers from three schools in the PHM area Nilaweli in Trincomalee. They were provided with a two day training to identify common health problems among school children. In addition to the training their attitude and knowledge on common health problems was surveyed.

Five hundred and sixty one students aged 5 - 14 years were screened by the teachers and re-examined by the investigator, to estimate the correctness of the diagnosis made by the teacher.

The reliability was found to be high for most of the common conditions and sensitivity too was found to be at an acceptable level indicating the teachers ability to identify the selected health conditions.

The specificity was also found to be high which reassures against unnecessary referrals to health institutions by teachers.

The study shows teachers could be used successfully to identify most of the common defects found among school children.