PREVALENCE OF PARASITIC INFECTIONS AND ITS IMPACT ON THE GENERAL HEALTH STATUS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN ZAGAZIG DISTRICT

SUMMARY

Inspite of a great development in health care, the problem of parasitic infections considered the most important causes of morbidity and mortality in the world.

The aim of this study was to find out the prevalence, effects of parasitic infection on the health status of school children.

The total sample size of the study was 319 primary school children selected randomly from 2 schools of east and west area in Zagazig district.

A structured questionnaire interview sheet composed of four parts: -

1- Socio-demographic characteristics as age, sex, grade, residence…
2- Data related to past medical history of the children.
3- Data related to environmental sanitation of the schools.
4- Information related to personal hygiene and nutrition of the children.

Assessment sheet to collect data about: -

1- Signs of anemia.
2- BMI.

3- Stool examination.

A pilot study was carried out on 20 children and was carried out to assure the reliability and validity of the tool. Some changes were done accordingly. Those who shared in the pilot study were excluded from the study sample.

The study results can be summarized as follows: -

- The environmental sanitation of school of west is better than school of east area.
- The prevalence of parasitic infection was (29.2%) and the most common parasites were by Entameba histolytica (43.0%), Giardia lamblia (41.9%), Oxyuris (6.5%), and Hymenolepis nana (2.2%).
- The prevalence of parasites is higher among age group (8-<12) and this percentage decreased in the age group (≥12).
- The percentage of positive cases is higher among children living in rural and crowded area, and also higher among children belonged to low social class.
- The factors of personal hygiene and nutrition affect the prevalence of parasitic infections.
- The percentage of positive cases is higher among children had family history of parasite and also higher among underweight children.
- ⅓of the sample that had bad general health status were having parasites.
- The children having imbalanced diet were underweight.
- More than half of the sample having good general health status belonged to high social class.

- The percentage of good general health status is higher among children of working mothers.
- The high percentage of overweight children were present among students belonged to high social class.
- The percentage of average BMI is higher among children of university educated and working mothers.

According to the findings it is recommended that:

Increasing awareness of the population about parasitic infection by giving health education about:

1- Modes of transmission.
2- Personal hygiene.
3- Nutrition.
4- Environmental sanitation.
5- Family planning.
6- Periodic examination and follow up.