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151 - DOUBLE BURDEN OF MALNUTRITION IN RURAL MADAGASCAR: A STUDY ON INFANT HEALTH IN AMPEFY

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Resumen

Background/Objectives: This study investigates the prevalence and impact of the double burden of malnutrition (DBM), malnutrition and overnutrition, in infants aged 0-24 months in the rural municipality of Ampefy, Itasy region, Madagascar. The Global Nutrition Report 2022 highlights the widespread issue of malnutrition, affecting 2 billion adults and 38 million children under five. Madagascar, characterized by severe poverty and high malnutrition rates, serves as a critical case study.

Methods: A structured questionnaire was administered to 437 mother-child pairs from November 2022 to March 2023, collecting data on maternal education, dietary habits, and socio-economic status. Anthropometric measurements were taken using either a stadiometer or UNICEF length charts to assess height/length and an electronic scale to determine weight.

Results: Findings reveal a high prevalence of malnutrition, with 29.7% of children affected by either wasting, stunting, and/or underweight, and 13.3% classified as overweight or obese. This study identifies significant age-related differences, with younger children more likely to be overweight and older children more likely to suffer from stunting or wasting. Maternal nutritional status, breastfeeding practices, and socio-economic conditions are strongly associated with child malnutrition outcomes. Lower dietary diversity among mothers and insufficient antenatal care are significant risk factors. Households with lower incomes and limited access to water and transport face higher malnutrition risks.

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Conclusions/Recommendations: This study underscores the critical need for targeted nutritional interventions and education to address DBM in Madagascar, highlighting the importance of maternal health and dietary diversity in early childhood development. Further longitudinal research is recommended to establish causality and develop comprehensive public health strategies.

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