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Malnutrition in children: South Africa's present scenario

Maintrition occurs when an individual's dietary intake is not balanced with nutritional needs. More than 75% of the Children admitted in Public Hospital of sub-saharan Africa for any reason are suffering from malnutrition. Department of Health of South Africa publish that 15% of South African infants are born with a low birth weight. There are 25% of pre-school children and 20% of primary school children in South Africa suffered from malnutrition. Since 2011 to 2016 over the period of 6 years we followed total paediatric admission in Stanger Hospital, Natal Province, South Africa. Average annual admission is around 1400-1500 (excluding neonates) in paediatric wards, Around 9000 over last six years, female child are predominant, female and male ratio was found 60:40. Lack of breast feeding is also a cause for the malnutrition. The 2010 South Africa department of Health Study found that 30.2% of pregnant women in South Africa have HIV/AIDS and they are reluctant to breast feed their children. Malnutrition is the cause of severe poverty in sub –sharan Africa. According to statistics from the year 2000, 50% of the South African population is under the poverty line. The World Health Organization showed that over the span of thirteen years (1995 to 2008), the deviation from the average height of children under age five in South Africa has decreased from 28.7% to 23.9%. The approach of dietician and pediatrician to fight back malnutrition problems is a major problem in Africa, which is an ongoing effort.

Biography

Mir N Anwar graduated in Medicine from Bangladesh in 1975. He did his Post-graduation in Pediatrics from Ireland in 1982. He did his MPH concentration Maternity and Child Health from University of Massachusetts, USA in 2003. Then he joined UN/ WHO and worked as a Pediatric Consultant & Public Health Specialist, around the world including Asia, Japan, Middle East, Africa, Pacific Island, Ireland and USA. Since 2007 he has been working in South Africa in different provinces of South Africa with the Department of Health. Presently he is working as a Clinical Medical Manager in Richmond Chest Hospital, KZN. South Africa. Presently his main interest is in Childhood TB and HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa. In his long carrier in Pediatric and Public Health he attended several international congress, conferences, and seminars and presented his original work. Some of them were published in International Journal including American Child Neurology Journal, Japan Pediatric Neurology Journal, Pakistan Pediatric Journal, Bangladesh Child Medical Journal, Nigerian Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology etc. For his work he is honoured by American Academy of Pediatrics, Royal College of Health, UK, and International College of Pediatrics. His biography is published in Who's Who in Medicine Cambridge, UK in 1985.

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