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A systematic review of the factors influencing concurrent wasting, stunting, and underweight in children under five suffering from severe acute malnutrition in low- and middle-income countries

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Background: In poor nations, concurrent wasting and stunting (WaSt) is a severe kind of malnutrition that affects children under five. While there is little doubt that stunting and wasting share similar causal pathways. The purpose of this rapid review is to inform decision-makers on the factors that simultaneously impact underweight, wasting, and stunting in children under five who are suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

Methods: The Cochrane Library, Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar, PubMed, EMBASE, Central, and hand searches of some institutions like the WHO were the sources of the data were reviewed. Every child who met the qualifying conditions for the trial and had severe acute malnutrition—less than five—was included. Quantitative and mixed methods were performed. The crucial time frame begins at conception and ends when the infant reaches two years of age or older. This window of "1,000 days" offers the finest chance to safeguard human capital for the future.

Results: A total of 4,302, 605 results were found through manual and database searches. 3,990,576 were removed prior to screening because of redundancy. For eligibility, a total of 416,034 records were included. Three key factors—the child's age, anemia, and birth type—were frequently linked to stunting, wasting, and underweight. There is a substantial correlation between being underweight at birth and the risk of stunting, underweight, and wasting. Undernutrition was more common in boys than in females. Additionally, there was a strong correlation found between wasting and the mother's age, career, and familial poverty as a child.

Conclusion: The age of Childs, anemia level, birth order and being male s child were factors that influenced concurrent stunting, underweight, and wasting. Children who experience severe acute malnutrition may have permanent physical and mental disabilities, which could reduce their levels and prospective earnings.

Biography

Godana Arero Dassi is a researcher and faculty member at Adama Hospital Medical College, School of Public Health, in the Oromia regional state of Ethiopia. His work primarily focuses on child nutrition and malnutrition in low- and middle-income countries. Godana has conducted extensive research on severe acute malnutrition, particularly examining the factors influencing concurrent wasting, stunting, and underweight in children under five. His recent systematic review aims to inform policymakers on the critical factors affecting child nutrition, such as anemia, birth weight, and socio-economic status, with a focus on preventing long-term physical and cognitive disabilities in malnourished children.