

**Title : Nutritional Status of Construction Worker's Children in Pune****Author(s) :** Rita Patil ^a, Pranita Madkaiker^b and Sujata Kudale ^b**Institution :** ^a Maniben Nanavati Women's College, ,S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai.
^b Tara Mobile Creches, Pune.**Email id :** rita.spatil@gmail.com**Keywords :** *nutritional status, stunting, wasting*

Introduction:

Limited household food availability, poor living conditions are causes of malnutrition, particularly in children. Construction workers are a migratory population. Their children are born and live in extremely dire living conditions and are prone to ill health and diseases, due to unsanitary conditions. The objective of the study was to assess nutritional status of construction worker's children. This study was conducted at Pune with an NGO which manages over 15 day care centers at various construction sites.

Methodology:

Children between 0-5 years in four centers that were managed by Tara Mobile Crèches were selected for this study. Anthropometric measurements of height, weight, MUAC were taken for the children in this study (n= 113). BMI, HAZ, WAZ, MUAC Z and BMI Z scores were calculated using the WHO anthro software (version 3.2.2). The results were compared with WHO growth charts. Statistical analysis was done using SPSS version 20.0.

Results:

Out of the 113 children, 46.9% were boys and 53.1% were girls. WAZ score indicated that 20.4% children were severely underweight, 34.5% were moderately underweight and rest 45.1% were normal weight. HAZ score pointed out that severe stunting was evident in 36.3% children and 29% were moderately stunted, 34.5% were normal. 78.8 % children were in the normal WHZ score category; but 4.4 % children were severely wasted and 16.8 were moderately wasted. MUAC Z score showed 5.3 % children to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), 17.7% to be moderately acute malnourished (MAM) and 77% had normal MUAC Z score.

Conclusion:

The existence of severe malnutrition is evident in many of these children. Results clearly indicate an urgent need for attention to them. Both the parents worked to make both ends meet. Children were dependent on day care centers to provide food. Inadequate food intake and an obvious lack of nutrient intake is the reason for poor nutritional status of these children. Results point out a need for focused attention towards this population.