

Necessity of Research on Ethnic Children in Bangladesh

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Health is a basic requirement and key to improve the quality of life. Healthy individuals are a prerequisite for the increased production in agriculture, industry and also in every sphere of life and they contribute economic development. Children who are stunted, anemic, experience hunger or have poorer and faulty dietary intake tend to have frequent or chronic infections. We know malnutrition in 3 to 5 year of age i.e. preschool age will affect school performance during school age and there is more chance to drop out of school early and repeat grades. It is well established that the first three years of life are critical, and that the way a child's brain develops is greatly influenced by what s/he experiences during that period. Not only do environment affect how large and how fast a child's brain grow, but it helps direct the actual "wiring" of the brain's circuitry. Early period of life is a "critical window" for the promotion of optimal growth, health and behavioral development. Half of the children who die worldwide are related to mild and moderate degree of malnutrition but there is very scanty information about tribal children in Bangladesh. So reduction in morbidity and improvement of nutritional status are major policy issue for health planners in developing countries like Bangladesh. We know in Bangladesh tribal population living in different ecosystem and depend on primitive agricultural practices; they often face uncertainty of food supply and tend to suffer from under nutrition. There is very little information available regarding the diet and nutritional status of tribes in Bangladesh. Hence to fill up some of this information gap, more research is needed to carry out to assess the nutritional status of pre-school children of tribal population. If we get research findings this information will be helpful in the formulation of suitable development programmes like "food for work" or other development programmes for the nutritional upliftment of this tribe and donor agency can funding investigators to conduct their study.

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