

11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on

# Childhood Obesity and Nutrition

March 15-16, 2018 | Barcelona, Spain

## Prevalence of malnutrition and associated factors among children aged 6-59 months at Hidabu Abote district, North Shewa, Oromia

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**Introduction:** Malnutrition continues to be a major public health problem in developing countries. It is the most important risk factor for the burden of diseases. It causes about 300,000 deaths per year and responsible for more than half of all deaths in children. In Ethiopia, child malnutrition rate is one of the most serious public health problem and the highest in the world. High malnutrition rates in the country pose a significant obstacle to achieve better child health outcomes.

**Objective:** To assess prevalence of malnutrition and associated factors among children aged 6-59 months at Hidabu Abote district, North Shewa, Oromia.

**Methods:** A community based cross sectional study was conducted on 820 children aged 6-59 months from September 8-23, 2012 at Hidabu Abote district. Multistage sampling method was used to select households. Children were selected from each kebeles by simple random sampling. Anthropometric measurements and structured questions were used. Data was processed using EPI-info software and exported to SPSS for analysis. Then after, sex, age, months, height and weight transferred with HHs number to ENA for SMART 2007 software to convert nutritional data into Z-scores of the indices; H/A, W/H and W/A. Bivariate and multivariate logistic regressions were used to identify associated factors of malnutrition.

**Results:** The analysis of this study revealed that 47.6%, 30.9% and 16.7% of children were stunted, underweight and wasted, respectively. The main associated factors of stunting were found to be child age, family monthly income, and children were received butter as pre-lacteal feeding and family planning. Underweight was associated with number of children HHs and children were received butter as per-lacteal feeding but treatment of water in HHs only associated with wasting.

**Conclusion:** From the findings of this study, it is concluded that malnutrition is still an important problem among children aged 6-59 months. Therefore, special attention should be given on intervention of malnutrition.

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