

## Abstract of Master's Dissertation

No.1

Course	International Health Development (MPH)	Name	Tamami Tokuchi
Thesis Title	Factors affecting malnutrition up to 12 months of age in Kampong Cham province, Cambodia		
<p><b>Abstract of Master's Dissertation</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>It is the right of every child to receive proper nutrition, regardless of the region or country of birth. Many children living in poor Asian setting are reported to be malnourished. Cambodia is one of these countries. Socio-economic status, mother's education and health, inappropriate feeding behavior have been identified as factors contributing to child malnutrition. At the same time, disease susceptibility, access to safe water, clean sanitation facilities and hand-washing practices of caregivers are also thought to have an impact.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <p>This study observed the nutritional status of children aged 3-12 months in a Cambodian rural area and investigated factors affecting their growth.</p> <p><b>Methods :</b></p> <p>The association of HAZ (height for age) and WAZ (weight for age) nutrition indicators with socio-economic status, maternal education level, family size, child feeding behavior and access to improved drinking water and sanitation facilities was analyzed using logistic and linear regression analyses. A multivariable model was built with all variables entered and the</p>			

\* The abstract, containing background, objectives, methods, results and conclusion should not exceed 300-500 words and printed double sided on A4 paper)

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<p>intensity of the variables analyzed.</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>The study sample was characterized by only 26% of children reaching the recommended food diversity, 60% of families used unimproved drinking water and 34% used unimproved sanitation facilities. HAZ and WAZ results show a downward trend with age in months and a poorer level of nutritional status than the national average. The analysis showed that low birthweight significantly affected stunting at 12 months (odds 4.27 (95% CI 0.84,21.72)). On the other hand, low birthweight was positively correlated with the change from 3 to 12 months. Improved drinking water had an effect on stunting at 12 months (odds 2.79 (95% CI 1.26,6.19)). Given the geographical aspects of the study sample and natural disasters, even improved drinking water may not be considered safe. Diversity food was shown to be negatively correlated with underweight at 12 months of age (odds 0.28 (95% CI 0.09,0.85)).</p> <p>Conclusion :</p> <p>Rapid weight gain in low-birthweight infants needs further investigation into its impact on child obesity. Even improved drinking water in some environments needs to be properly assessed as to whether it is safe. There is a need for support to ensure that children and families in difficult circumstances, such as poverty, remote areas and areas vulnerable to natural disasters, can access food diversity without barriers. (373 words)</p>			