Prevalence of Chronic Energy Deficiency in the Elderly Population of Matlab

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Objective: Study the prevalence of chronic energy deficiency (CED) in the elderly population of Matlab and its association with different socioeconomic status indicators.

Methodology: Socioeconomic and anthropometric measurements of 626 individuals aged 55 years and above, residing in 14 villages of Matlab thana of Chandpur district, were obtained during April-August 1995 using a pre-coded questionnaire. Body mass index was used as an indicator of CED. Bivariate and multivariate analyses were done, and variabl

s found to be significant in the preliminary bivariate analysis were used as the independent variables in the logistic regression model.

Results: The results of the study showed that about 80% of the elderly people suffered from different degrees of CED, and 35% from severe CED. In both bivariate and multivariate analyses, severe CED was highly prevalent (p<0.01) among the elderly people in the BRAC-eligible poor households. According to the logistic regression, severe CED was most prevalent among the unemployed and disabled (56%) and least prevalent among those involved in farming (20%). The elderly people, residing in families with more than five members, seemed to suffer most from severe CED (p<0.01).

Conclusion: Severe CED is highly prevalent in the rural elderly population, and was associated with socioeconomic status, employment status, and family size. Therefore, BRAC may be able to provide support services for the elderly people through the existing credit and health programmes.

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The Prevalence of Anaemia among Males and Females in Rural Bangladesh

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Objective: Investigate the prevalence of anaemia among males and females in a rural community of Bangladesh.

Methodology: The survey was conducted in a healthy population in March 1996 in 12 villages of Fulbaria thana of Mymensingh district. One hundred six males and 228 non-pregnant females aged 11-48 years were studied. Information on haemoglobin concentration, parasite infestation, and household socioeconomic status was obtained. A HemoCue photometer was used for measuring haemoglobin concentration. Microscopic examination of stool was done in the Microbiology Laboratory of the Mymensingh Medical College.

Results: About 69% of the males and 70% of the females were found to be anaemic according to the WHO criteria. There was no difference in the prevalence of anaemia between males and females. Literacy and economic status were associated with the prevalence of anaemia among the females, but not among the males (p<0.05). Anaemia was also more common among those holding little or no land and among those having current *Ascaris* infestation (p<0.05).