

Determinants of Malnutrition Among Under-five Children Attending Reproductive and Child Health Clinics in Hai, Tanzania

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This study aimed to assess the determinants of malnutrition among under five children attending reproductive and child health clinics. Specifically determined the social, economic characteristics on prevalence of under-five child malnutrition; and examine the relationship between maternal factors and malnutrition among under five years children attending reproductive and child health clinic in Hai district Kilimanjaro. A cross-sectional research design was adopted where open and closed questions were used to collect primary data from the sample size of 100 respondents. The probability systematic random sampling technique was used and the sample size was constituting 90 under-five children attended clinics children and 10 health workers from three health centers at Hai district. Data analysis was done using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) computer programme version 23, Descriptive and multiple regression models were used. The findings revealed that the prevalence of malnutrition among under-five children with (43.1% and 39.2%), (36.8% and 34.7%), and (70.4% and 50%) which was higher among boys than girls. The regression analysis of this study indicated that monthly income, food security, guardian occupation, child age, child number, marital status, mother age at birth, parent education, vitamin A, deworming status, ANC visit during pregnancy, childhood illness and breastfeeding status statistically had a significant influence on under-five child malnutrition. There is a need for urgent interventions to prevent and mitigate child malnutrition in the district by addressing all the identified risk factors.