

A38 Relationship of mother's working status with nutritional status of children from South East Asian Countries: A review

Waghode R¹, Yadav S¹, Ghooi R² and Menon K¹

¹*Symbiosis Institute of Health Sciences, Symbiosis International (Deemed University) Lavale, Pune, India*

²*Scientia Clinical Services Pune, India.*

Malnutrition in children is a major challenge in South East Asian Countries and is related to a variety of social and economic conditions. The objective of this review was to study the relationship of mothers' working status with nutritional status of children from these selected countries. Relevant studies were searched from 3 databases, viz., PubMed, Science Direct and Web of sciences in April 2021. Medical subject headings (MeSH) the National Library of Medicine were used to select the appropriate search terms. Inclusion criteria for selection of studies were as follows: studies published between January 2010 to February 2021, among children between age group 6 months to 12 years, explored the relationship of mothers' work with at least one indicator of child nutritional status (i.e., stunting, wasting, undernutrition, overnutrition, obesity) and in English Language were considered. Duplicate studies were eliminated; title abstract and full text screening was conducted using the Covidence Software. A total of 10247 records were identified and after removing duplicates, 2610 articles were shortlisted. Out of 2610 articles 13 studies met to the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Quality of these 13 studies was checked using STROBE guidelines for observational studies. These studies were from Bangladesh ($n=2$), India ($n=5$), Myanmar ($n=1$), Nepal ($n=3$) and Sri Lanka ($n=2$). Of 13 studies, only one study reported a positive association of mothers' employment with height-for-age of children whereas 3 studies reported no association between child nutritional status and working status of the mother. Results from the remaining 9 studies indicated negative effects of mothers' working status on the nutritional status of children. Identifying the real challenges faced by working mothers and paying attention to appropriate child care is crucial for their children's good nutritional status.