

Introduction: Malnutrition in children is a major challenge in Southeast Asian countries and is related to a variety of social and economic conditions. This review summarizes the current information on the relationship of mothers' working status with nutritional status of children from these countries.

Methodology: Relevant studies were searched from 3 databases, viz., PubMed, Science Direct and Web of Sciences in April 2021. Medical subject headings (MeSH) of National Library of Medicine were used to select the appropriate search terms. Inclusion Criteria: Publications between January 2011 to February 2021; children in age group 6 months to 12 years. Studies from Southeast Asian countries.

Results: The selected studies were from Bangladesh (n=2), India (n=5), Myanmar (n=1), Nepal (n=3) and Sri Lanka (n=2). 6 of the 13 studies (46%) reported poor nutritional status in children of working mothers. 3 of 13 (23%), studies reported better nutritional status in children of working mothers', and 4 of 13 (31%) studies reported no association between child nutritional status and the working status of the mother.

Figure 1: PRISMA

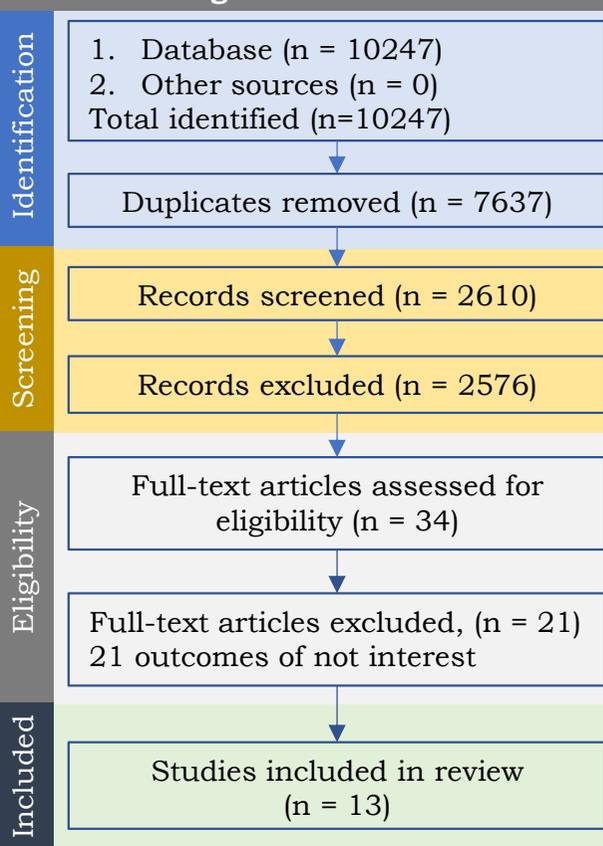


Table 1: Relationship of mothers' working status with anthropometric indices of children

Sr.No	Author, Year	Country	Findings
1	Hossain, et al.,(2020) **	Nepal	SAM was prevalent in children of working mothers
2	Sigdel, et al.,(2020) **	Nepal	Children of working mothers were at lower risk of underweight
3	Brauner-Otto, et al.,(2019) **	Nepal	Children of working mother had significantly lower HAZ, WHZ and MUACZ
4	Kang, et al.,(2019) **	Myanmar	Stunting was prevalent in children of working mothers
5	Shinsugi, et al.,(2019) **	Sri Lanka	Overweight was prevalent in children of working mothers
6	Swaminathan,et al.,(2019) *	India	Stunting was not related to mothers' working status
7	Huda, et al.,(2018)**	Bangladesh	Stunting was not related to mothers' working status
8	Ambadekar, et al.,(2017)**	India	SAM was prevalent in children of working mothers
9	Galgamuwa, et al.,(2017)**	Sri Lanka	Wasting and underweight was prevalent in children of working mothers
10	Tigga, et al.,(2015) *	India	Wasting (Low MUACZ) was not related to mothers' working status
11	Deshmukh, et al.,(2013)*	India	Stunting was not related to mothers' working status
12	Yeleswarapu, et al.,(2012) *	India	Height and weight of nonworking mother's children was better than children of working mothers
13	Jesmin, et.al.,(2011) *	Bangladesh	Children of working mothers had higher mean HAZ score (better nourished) than non working mothers children

HAZ = Height-for-age; **MUACZ** = Mid-upper arm circumference for age; **WHZ** = Weight-for-height; **WAZ** = Weight-for-age; **SAM** = Severe acute malnutrition; **Strobe Rating** = ** Indicates Good and * Indicates Fair

Discussion: The findings of this reviews are mixed and contradictory, hence a definite conclusion about the relationship of mothers' working status with nutritional status of children cannot be drawn. The possible causes of this variations can be attributed to difference in type of work the mothers' were engaged in, available childcare facility, support from family, and cultural factors. **Conclusion:** In-depth research is required to identify determinants that influence the nutrition status of children and its relation with mother's working status.