



EXTENT OF INTESTINAL PARASITIC INFECTIONS ON INFANTS

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Introduction

Intestinal parasitic infections are among the most common infection worldwide. High prevalence is found in people with low social economic status, poor living condition, overcrowded areas, poor environmental sanitation, improper garbage disposal, unsafe water supply and unhygienic person habits. Intestinal parasites are mostly affect all people depending to nature and environmental condition that lead to high morbidity and mortality rate. Children are mostly in risk due to subjected in the soil and dirty areas. The effect of intestinal parasite is not only to children but also adults are affected however the extent is less compared to children.

We aim to provide awareness to the society about intestinal parasitic infection effects (morbidity and mortality) especially to children under five years. To provide data or ways for precaution to parents about how to take care of their children against soil helminthes transmission (SHT). To provide valuable and useful statistical data for the national program and other national health plans.

Method

Open interview and case study were applied to obtain the prevalence of intestinal parasitic infections on infants

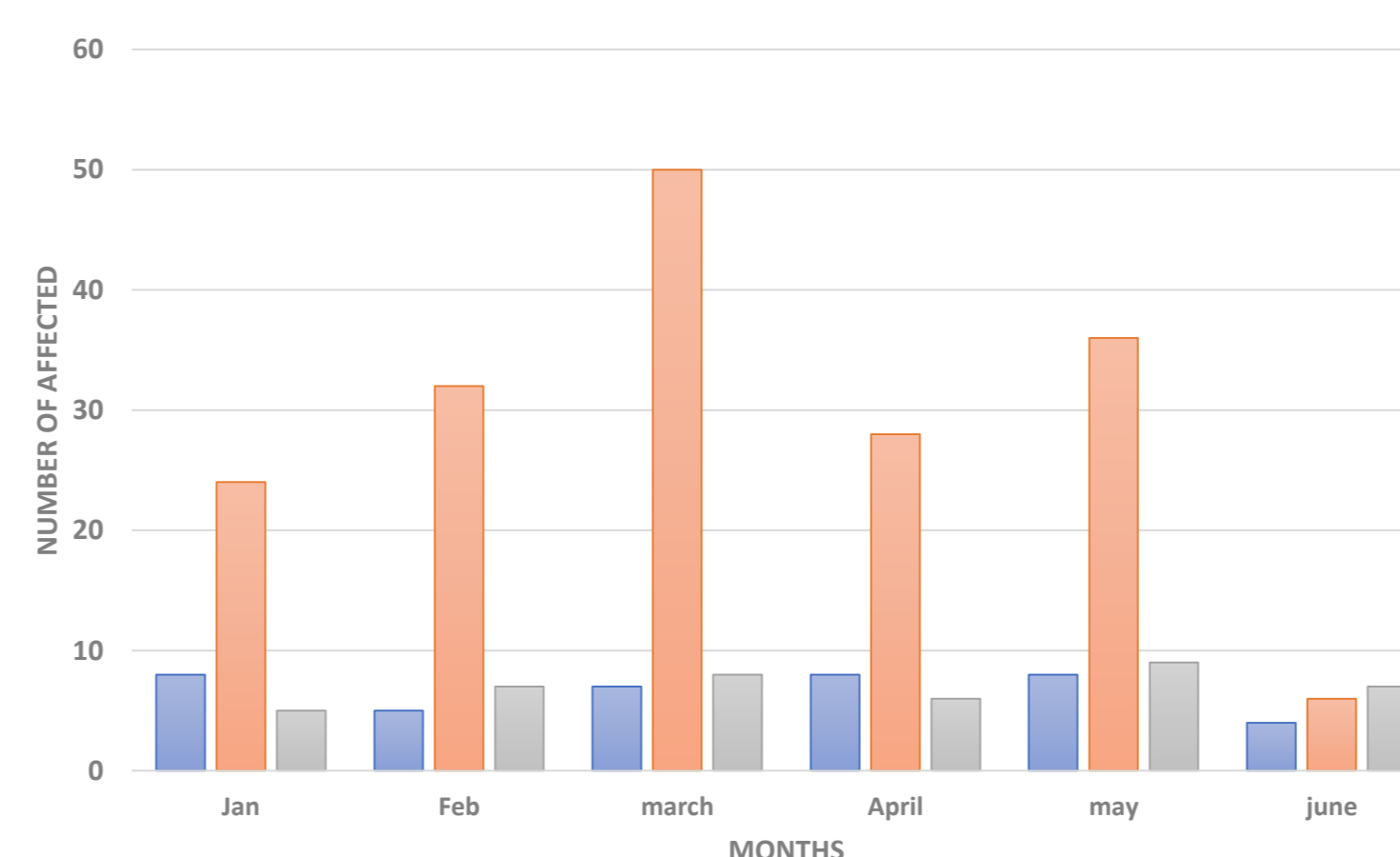
Open interview this was applied to investigate the infection to all samples of infants conducted by the health experts in the laboratory different questions were asked to the health expert and attempted. Such questions include;

- What are the supporting factors for intestinal parasites in an environment?
- What lifestyle habits lead to high probability of intestinal parasitic infections?
- What measures should be adapted so as to reduce intestinal parasitic infections?
- What are the rolls of parents in protecting their children from these infections?
- Which intestinal parasite affect infants the most?

Case study, the laboratory data which shows the samples investigated and the results of affected samples in figures (number) collected from health experts for six months from January to June 2023

Results

The results reveals that, the total number of report of patient whose stool samples were examined at SONGWE VIWANDANI heath centre from January 2023 to June 2023. It was noted that the highly number of affected patients were occurred in different months in 2023 were due to different factors include contaminated water, many raw fruits and vegetables. The prevalence of intestinal parasitic infection among under five aged children were summarized in table 1. In this study the prevalence of intestinal parasitic infection among the children under five aged in 2023 were 55.08% According to the data from the laboratory shown that in some months there are highly prevalence of infection of intestinal parasites include February, March, April and May



Types of parasite	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Hook worms	08	05	07	08	08	04						
Ascaris	24	32	50	28	36	06						
E.histolytic	05	07	08	06	09	07						
Total sample	102	80	91	64	80	55						
Total affected	37	44	65	42	55	17						

The infection of parasites are high in February, March, April and May this is due to unique conditions appeared to those months such as heavy rainfall and floods at this periods where raw fruit are more available and also sanitation is poor and more availability of vegetables that were not protected from helminthes worms that lead highly risk to children, Personal factors (parents care) here the children playing on soil the parents should take care so as to ensure the safely condition to children under five aged.

Among the affected sample the prevalence of ascaris was higher than others to about 67.69%, followed with Entamoeba histolyca about 16.15% and hookworm to about 15.38% .

Conclusion

The objective of the study was to determine the magnitude and overall prevalence of intestinal parasitic infections under five aged children. The prevalence of infections of intestinal parasites to under five aged children at SONGWE BONDE were common determined, the overall prevalence of infections with different types of intestinal parasites that were determined shows the real prevalence of intestinal parasites infants. Also due to similar conditions of our country we advised more investigations must be done even all over the country especially to large hospitals such as referral hospitals and regional hospitals

Recommendations

Campaign on sanitation and public health should be provided in the society to raise awareness on the prevalence of intestinal parasitic infections to infants. This will create a prosperous society on health especially to children.

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