PREVALENCE OF CHRONIC ENERGY DEFICIENCY AND ITS CONSEQUENCE ON CHILDREN'S NUTRITIONAL STATUS AMONG THE MARGINALIZED GROUP IN INDIA

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Introduction: In India, malnutrition remains a soundless tragedy, though the government of India has made significant progress in the past several decades in improving the health and well being of its people. Tribal women are more likely to suffer from nutritional deficiencies than rests are, for reasons including their traditional values, customs, beliefs and myth intact. In India, volumes have been written about the nature and cause of adult and child malnutrition and the means of reducing it. But the association of women's CED on children's nutritional status has gone largely unnoticed until recently. Under this backdrop, this present paper mainly focuses on the prevalence of Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED) among the Tribal women in India and to explore the impact of women's CED on the nutritional status of their children.

The main **objectives** of the study are

- to study the nutritional status of Indian tribal women
- to examine the prevalence of 'chronic energy deficiency' and degree of anaemia (severe, mild and moderate) among women by selected background characteristics
- to prepare a nutritional profile of the tribal children
- to explore the impact of 'chronic energy deficiency' (BMI) of women on the nutritional status of their children

Methods: The data were drawn from 10815 tribal women in the age-group of 15-49 from National Family Health Survey-III. The structure of the survey is similar to that of the Demography Health Survey.

Results: Little lessthan thirty percent of the currently married tribal women in India have a BMI (Body Mass Index) below 18.5, indicating a high prevalence of nutritional deficiency (28.9 percent). Among women who are suffering from this CED (Chronic Energy Deficiency), 16 percent are severely thin, another one-fourth are moderately thinness. CED is comparatively serious problems among young women (35 percent), women living in rural (33 percent), women who are illiterates (38.4 percent), Hindu tribal women (43.6percent), women who are working as agricultural and skilled

laborers (37.4percent) and women in households in the low standard of living condition (41.5percent) than their counterparts.

Around two-third of the pregnant tribal women are anemic and this proportion for non-pregnant tribes is 58.7 percent. More than forty percent of the severe anemic tribal women are suffering from CED (44.4 percent) and this proportion is decreases when the mothers' anemic condition increases. On the other hand, less than one percent of the obesity tribal women are severe anemic and this proportion increases when the women's anemic condition improves.

More than half of the children (57.8 percent) born to the tribal women are anemic, it includes 2.0 percent of severe anemic children and 33.5 percent of the moderate anemic children. Forty seven percent of severe anemic children are born to women with BMI less than 18.5 (CED). Further, the moderate and mild anaemic children are closely associated with CED. Where as the severe anaemic children are less common, women with obesity (4.3 percent). It is note that the well-nourished (and obesity) women have about 75 percent of non-anaemic children.

Two-third of the children is stunted and thirty-one percent the children are underweight. Wasting also quite a serious problem affecting, about forty percent of the children among the tribal community. More than half of the low weight babies (52.8 percent) are born to the mothers who are suffering by CED. The Chi-Square Tests analysis shows a high correlation between mothers's BMI with incidence of anemia among children (Pearson Chi-Square value 151.347).

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