

Wipa Mala 2009: Factors Influencing Malnutrition Status of Preschool Children in Kaset Wisai District, Roi Et Province. Master of Science (Home Economics), Major Field: Home Economics, Department of Home Economics. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Siripun Chulakarangka, M.S. 150 pages.

The objectives of this research were to study nutritional status and factors influencing malnutrition status of preschool children in Kaset Wisai District, Roi Et Province. Questionnaires were employed to gather data from 1 to 5 year-old malnutritional preschool children in Kaset Wisai District, and 340 children were selected by multi-stage random sampling. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and multiple regression for factor determination.

The results of the study revealed that 70 percent of the children were at the third degree level of malnutrition based on age for weight. For nutritional status based on age for height, the results showed that 67.6 percent of the children were at normal level. For nutritional status based on height for weight, the results showed that 49.1 percent of the children were at the third degree level of malnutrition. Sixty five percent of the children had proper parent's health care. For primary health service, the results showed that 67.4 percent of the samples got a low level. The food sanitation practice of the samples' family were at a fair level. For food feeding, the results showed that 93.1 percent of the 1 year-old samples were at a improper level and fairly for 2 to 5 year-old's children. For nutritional knowledge, the results showed that 56.2 percent of the parents had a low level and for food energy intake of the children, it was under a standard criteria.

The factor influencing malnutrition status based on age for weight was the parental health caring. Factors influencing malnutrition based on age for height were: 1) nutritional knowledge; 2) fat intake; and 3) food payment. Factors influencing malnutrition status based on weight for height were: 1) health services; 2) health caring; and 3) food feeding.

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Student's signature

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Thesis Advisor's signature