

C 845338 : MAJOR COMMUNITY MEDICINE

KEY WORD: NUTRITIONAL STATUS / PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

SIRILUK OUPPAVANICH : SURVEY OF NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND FACTORS RELATED TO NUTRITIONAL STATUS AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN SUKHOThai PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR : PROF. DR. THASSANEE NUCHPRAYOON, THESIS COADVISOR : SOMRAT LERTMAHARIT, 101 pp. ISBN 974-636-374-3

The purpose of this study was to assess the nutritional status and factors related to nutritional status among primary school children in Sukhothai province. 1,295 students in 8 schools located in urban area and 1,685 students in 16 schools in rural area were randomly selected from all students studying in prathom 1-6 of primary schools in Sukhothai. The structured questionnaires were completed by school children in 1 part and by their parents and their teachers in another 2 parts. The nutritional status of school children were assessed by height-for-age and by weight-for-height. The collected data were then analyzed by SPSS/FW program.

Of all school children, 76.7% were in normal nutritional status, 16.0% underweight, and 7.3% overweight. The study showed a statistical difference in nutritional status between students from schools in urban and rural area ($p < 0.001$). The nutritional status was not significantly associated with sex and school class. Food habits seemed to be an important factor related to nutritional status- overweight students had 3 meals and snacks more than normal and underweight students. There was also a significant association between the family environment (parental education, occupation, economic status ect.) and the nutritional status.

In order to improve the nutritional status of primary school children, nutritional education with proper food practices should be emphasized, and their parents should be considered key persons.

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