## Anemia in four years old children of kattankulathur area.

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## ABSTRACT

Anemia is a serious concern for young children because it can result in impaired cognitive performance, behavioral and motor development, co-ordination, language development as well as increased morbidity from infectious disease. The aim of this study was to assess the prevalence of anemia and its relation to variables such as age, gender, weight, height, mother's education, total family numbers, Birth order, number of children in the family and socio economic factor in toddlers of Kattankulathur area. The study was approved by institutional ethics committee of SRM Medical college Hospital and Research centre. A total of 116 children in the age of 4 years were included in this study. Written informed consent was obtained from the parents or guardians of all child participants. The age of the children was recorded from the date of birth written in the vaccination card. The information regarding birth order of child, number of siblings, total family members, parents' education, employment and socioeconomic status was collected through an interview. Weight and Height of the children were taken for assessing their nutritional status. Blood hemoglobin levels of children were estimated by cyanmethemoglobin method, the blood sample obtained by finger prick method. WHO standards for this age group were used to define the presence and severity of Anemia.Data were analyzed by the statistical package SPSS version 17. Chi square was used and p value < 0.05 was considered as statistically significant. The prevalence of anemia was 63.8 %. The percentage of anemic children among male and female was 31.0 % and 32.7 % respectively. BMI, total family members, mothers' education and socio economic factor were important determinants of anemia. There was no significant relationship between anemia and birth order of child and number of siblings. The prevalence of anemia in the children was high 63.8 %. All the malnourished children should be screened for anemia.