

Prevalence of Goitre among School-age Children in Jimma Town, South West Ethiopia



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BACKGROUND:

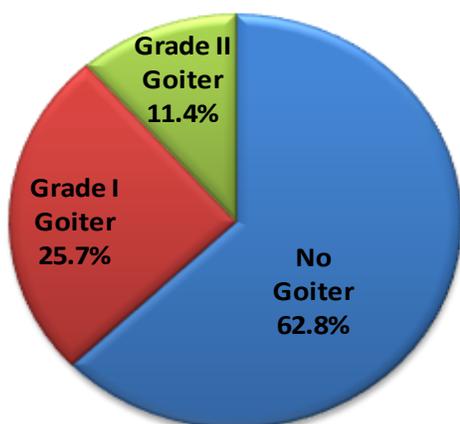
Iodine is an important micronutrient, required in the body for the production of thyroid hormones, which are vital for many functions of the body. Low level of thyroid hormones in the body, due to lack of adequate iodine in food, are responsible for goitre. Little is known about iodine status of school-age children. The aim of this study was to describe the prevalence of goitre among school-age children in Jimma town, south west Ethiopia.

METHODS:

- A school based cross sectional study was conducted among school-age children in Jimma, South West Ethiopia.
- A two-stage cluster design was used to select schools and classrooms based on proportion-to-population-size.
- Systematic random sampling technique was used to select 752 school children.
- WHO/UNICEF/ICCIDD classification scheme was used to evaluate goitre.
- UNICEF's field test kits were used to measure iodine content in salt.

RESULTS:

Prevalence of goiter among school-age children in Jimma town, Southwest Ethiopia



Socio-demographic characteristics of study participants

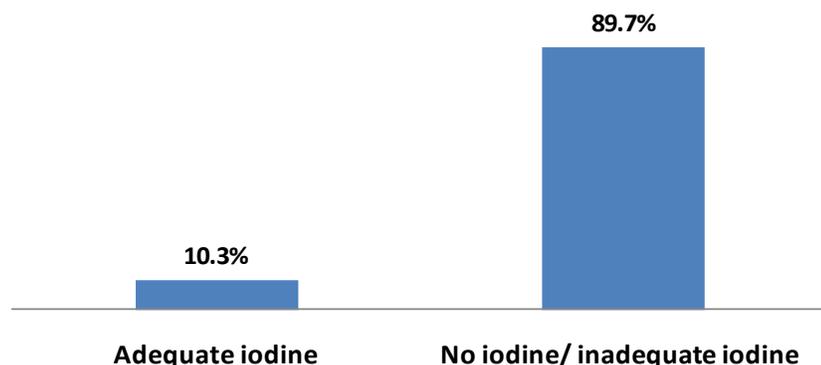
variables		Goiter n (%)	No Goiter n (%)
<i>Child</i>			
Sex	Female	162 (41.1)	213 (67.6)
	Male	102 (32.4)	232 (58.9)
Age	6-9	74 (32.9)	151 (67.1)
	10-12	190 (39.3)	294 (60.7)
Education	1 st cycle	209 (37.1)	355 (62.9)
	2 nd cycle	55 (37.9)	90 (62.1)
<i>Household</i>			
Maternal education	No formal education	84 (37.8)	138 (62.8)
	Primary	48 (36.4)	84 (63.6)
	Secondary	57 (33.7)	112 (66.3)
	College/ University	9 (20.0)	36 (80.0)
Paternal education	No formal education	45 (46.4)	52 (53.6)
	Primary	27 (38.6)	43 (61.4)
	Secondary	63 (35.4)	115 (64.6)
	College/ University	44 (26.0)	125 (74.0)

Percentages are calculated for rows

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

- The prevalence of goitre among school-age children in Jimma is high, indicating severe Iodine Deficiency Disorder necessitating immediate intervention with iodine capsules.
- A massive effort is necessary from the government and stakeholders in advocating the use of iodized salt
- More support is needed for female school-age children.
- Further research should be carried out to enhance better understanding of associated factors and appropriate response to Iodine Deficiency Disorder.

Percentage of households using salt with adequate iodine concentration



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