



Household Food Insecurity and Malnutrition

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Dear Sir,

I have read the original article entitled "Household Food Insecurity and Malnutrition in an Urban Field Practice Area of a Medical College" by Suhitha R Das and Chandana Krishna, published in your esteemed journal. It is informative and useful in the sense that it addresses issues on household food insecurity. However, I have few points to raise in connection with the methodology of the article;

1. The prevalence of food insecurity at the household level in the urban field practice area is said to have been assessed but the study population includes only the houses with under-five children instead of taking all the houses in the service area.
2. Similar study done in the American Indian families of the United States, by Emily et al² is used for calculating the sample size and the reason for using absolute precision is not clear. Instead relative precision, non-response rate and an Indian study using the same tool for assessing the food insecurity such as, study by Chinnakali P et al³ mentioned in the discussion could have been considered
3. In the background of the article the relation between poverty and food insecurity is discussed, so the association of food insecurity with the socio economic status would have been more appropriate.
4. Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) Version 3 was developed by the Food and Nutri-

tion Technical Assistance (FANTA) Project Coates et al and is published by Academy for Educational Development, Washington, D.C. The validation of the HFIAS tool for the Indian context should have been mentioned.

5. The author compares the mothers in the rented house and own house with food insecurity and study results depicts mothers in the rented houses (79.2%) are food secure, but after logistic regression this statement is contradicted. The rationale for age classification is not clear. Similarly, upper age limit of study participants and literate mothers in food secure group is missing.
6. Authors recommended that "Government needs to supplement the provision of food security by strengthening the public food distribution system". The authors should suggest recommendation based on the results of the study.

REFERENCES

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2. Chinnakali P, Upadhyay RP, Shokeen D, Singh K, Kaur M et al. Prevalence of Household-level Food Insecurity and Its Determinants in an Urban Resettlement Colony in North India. J Health Popul Nutr 2014 Jun;32