ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study was done to assess the prevalence, intensity and species of soil transmitted helminthiasis and nutritional status of 157 primary school children from the three schools in Hlaingtharya Township.

Stool examination using Kato-Katz technique was done to find out the prevalence, intensity and species of STH. Nutritional assessment was conducted by WHO Reference 2007 using indicators of weight-for-age, height-for-age and BMI-for-age. The face to face interview was done to assess the behavioural and environmental conditions associated with STH by using structured questionnaires. Check-list was used to evaluate the personal hygiene status by observation. The data was analyzed by using WHO AnthroPlus 1.0.2 and SPSS (Version 15.0).

Of the 157 respondents, 47 were found egg positive by stool examination i.e. the prevalence was 29.94%. *Trichuris trichiura* accounted for 95.74% of total infected cases and 4.26 % was *Ascaris lumbricoides*. There was no mixed infection. Regarding the intensity of STH infection, cumulative percentage of moderate and heavy infection contributed only 0.64%. Thus, the school community was classified as the low prevalence and low intensity of STH infections according to WHO combined prevalence/intensity rating.

The prevalences of malnutrition were underweight (46.8%), stunting (19.7%), thinness (46.8%) and overweight (2.6%). Malnutrition was more common in girls than boys. The distribution curves of anthropometric Z-scores falling below the normal reference curves revealed the suffering of malnutrition in the whole population of the three schools.

Proportion of thinness children with worm infection (40.4%) was higher than that of children without infection (25.5%). There was no overweight among worm infected children while 3.6% among non-infected children.

Regarding personal hygiene, 40.8% had effective personal hygiene practices and 40.1% had personal hygiene on all points of observation. All three