ABSTRACT

A case-control study was conducted to identify factors related to diarrhoea occurrence among rural children under two years of age at Tan Hung commune, Gia Loc district, Hai Duong province, Vietnam. The subjects were 92 mothers who had children under two years of age with diarrhoea and 108 mothers who had children under two years of age without diarrhoea last year. The data collection was conducted during March 4 to March 28, 2001. A structured interview questionnaire and checklist form was used to collect the information in this study. Univariate and bivariate analysis was used to access the association between the independent variables and the dependent variable. Multiple Logistic Regression analysis was performed to choose the most significantly associated factors with diarrhoea occurrence among the children under two years of age.

The analyses indicated that the factor most related to diarrhoea occurrence was mother’s hygienic food preparation (OR=2.75, 95% CI = 1.35, 5.62). Following that was mother’s knowledge about diarrhoea in general (OR= 2.45, 95% CI = 1.18, 5.25), which was especially significant for mothers with poor knowledge about the infection of diarrhoea (OR= 2.54, 95% CI = 1.01, 6.38). The other risk factors such as presence of underlying illness in children (OR=2.55, 95% CI = 1.28, 5.07), malnourished children (OR= 1.42, 95% = 1.19, 1.68) and family’s income (OR=1.86, 95% CI = 1.10, 3.30) were also significantly associated with diarrhoea occurrence.

According to the outcome of this study, several interventions can be identified to minimize the risk of diarrhoea. Programs should promote public health education to improve mothers’ knowledge about diarrhoea and hygienic childcare practice, especially among the poor people. Furthermore, the community government and community residents should take into consideration to solve the problem of the lack of hygienic latrines in this area. Further research should include an operational study and should be concentrated on the observation of mothers’ activities of childcare.