ABSTRACT

A descriptive study was conducted on psychosocial factors and nutritional status among children age 1-5 years in Yala Province, Thailand during March, 2001. One hundred and fifty six caretakers were interviewed and anthropometry measurement was done on their children.

Prevalence of malnutrition was 30.1 % by weight for age, 33.3 % by height for age (stunting) and 20.5 % by weight for height (wasting). The first-degree malnutrition were 16.7 %, second degree 13.5 % and there was no third degree malnutrition (weight for age).

Among the caretakers of malnourished children, three quarter of them had poor knowledge, two third had poor nutritional attitudes and poor eating factors. However, among the caretakers with children of normal nutritional status, the majority had good knowledge, good child rearing practices, good value on child rearing and husband support.

As result of this study, it is important to identify the problems as well as finding approaches to problem solving. Complementary approaches aimed towards child development programmes with integrated level participation are recommended.