

Follow up of health problems identified during school medical inspections in the year 2001 in MOH area Ella

MSc.(Community Medicine) - 2003

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Dental caries (43.4), acute malnutrition (19.5) chronic malnutrition (20) and pediculosis (10) was found to be the most common defects detected among the students. Of the students referred to specialized clinics 69.31 were due to poor visual acuity detected at SMI. Majority of the patients (90) had heard of them but awareness of the activities carried out at SMI was poor especially among the parents of Tamil medium students. Only 63 of the parents knew that defects were detected in their children who needed referral treatment, which shows that there is very poor communication between the patients and the school staff. Lack of coordination between the health and the school staff in organizing school health programmes, poor participation by parents and a lack of a proper referral follow up system were identified as the major shortcomings.