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**Determining the pattern of gastrointestinal parasitic infections among Orang Asli at Kg. Serendah, Selangor, Malaysia using molecular and parasitological methods****Mehru Nisha**

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Gastrointestinal parasite (GIP) infections have a global distribution and a major impact on the socioeconomic and public health of the world's poorest people. In Malaysia, the Orang Asli community is prone to these infections due to environmental and personal hygiene practices. In this study, we investigated the prevalence of GIP and potential risk factors for infection among the Orang Asli community at Kg. Serendah in Malaysia. Stool samples were collected from 110 villagers. Both microscopy and molecular methods were used to identify the parasites in stool. All the participants in the survey were treated as follows: 400 mg of albendazole for above 2 years old and 200 mg of albendazole for  $\leq 2$  years old. After deworming exercise, the villagers were examined at 1 and 6 months post treatment. The prevalence for GIP found in this study was 67% and the parasites detected were *Trichuris trichiura* (50%), *Ascaris lumbricoides* (39%), *Blastocystis hominis* (10%), *Cryptosporidium parvum* (7.2%), *Taenia* spp., (2.7%) and *Microsporidia* (2.7%). Higher GIP prevalence was observed among children below 6 years compared to the adults. Multivariate analysis showed that not using the toilet and drinking non boiled water was predictive of GIP infection in this study area. Overall cure rate post treatment for *A. lumbricoides* was higher than *T. trichiura*. In summary, combination of infrastructure development particularly with reference to sanitary sewage systems and portable water supply, coupled with poverty eradication programs and increase in health awareness and access to medical care the prevalence of intestinal parasites can be controlled.

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**Nutritional status of women of reproductive age in a selected Char of Rangpur District****Md Zahid Hasan Khan**

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An observational cross-sectional study was carried out at Rangpur District in Bangladesh to assess nutritional status of reproductive aged women residing in Char area with a sample size 200. Face to face interview was carried out with the semi-structured questionnaire. Convenient sampling technique was used to collect data on the basis of inclusion and exclusion criteria and written consent was taken prior to interview. Nutritional status was determined according to BMI cut off value for Asian population. Descriptive as well as inferential statistics were used to present data. Mean $\pm$ SD age of respondents was 34.27 $\pm$ 8.60. More than half (67%) of the respondents were illiterate and housewife (84%). Mean $\pm$ SD income of respondents was 5700.71 $\pm$ 282.89 per month. Underweight, normal and overweight were 67%, 30% and 3% respectively. Most respondents took rice 2-3 times a day. Vegetables and soybean were taken randomly. Lentil was taken daily. Arthritis, headache, skin disease was more common. Statistical significant association was found between nutritional status and age group ( $p < 0.05$ ), education ( $p < 0.05$ ), occupation ( $p < 0.05$ ) and monthly income ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). Half of the respondents suffered from underweight and most of them have very low income. Income generating capacity should be increased as well effective nutrition education program must be instituted.

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