

ASSESSING FACTORS AFFECTING BREAST FEEDING STATUS AMONG CHILDREN AGED BELOW FIVE YEARS IN WESTERN UGANDA.

NATAMBA JONAN*,

PopDev Consult Ltd, Kampala, Uganda jonanatamba@gmail.com

Child malnutrition is a serious health problem in Uganda affecting children and it contributes significantly to high and persistent child mortality and morbidity levels in the country. The study seeks to assess the factors affecting breast feeding status of children aged below five years in Western Uganda. Specific objectives were; To find out how women's socio economic variables affect breastfeeding duration; To ascertain the relationship between the age of the mother and the duration of breastfeeding; To establish the relationship between women's socio-economic factors and breastfeeding. Hypotheses include; Age of the mother, Women's socio-economic factors do not influence duration of breastfeeding. The study included women aged 15-49 with children aged 0-5 years. Secondary data from Uganda Demographic Health Survey of 2006 and was analyzed using SPSS version 16.0 Three levels of Analysis were done, Univariate level, bivariate analysis involved cross tabulations and Pearson chi square test. At multivariate analysis, logistic regression model was performed determine significance between dependent and independent variables. Findings confirmed that mothers' age, education, income, residence status had significant effect on breastfeeding at 95% level of confidence. Exclusive breastfeeding of 6 months before introducing solid food should be encouraged among women in Uganda.

Key words: Malnutrition, Morbidity and Mortality.