Title: ASSESSMENT OF NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD IN HUONG V INH COMMUNE, HUONG TRA DISTRICT, THUA THIEN HUE PROVINCE BY WHO ANTHRO SOFTWARE AND LEARN SOME RELATED FACTORS.

Hoang Thi Bach Yen MD, MPH, Le Thi Nhung BPH.

Institute: Faculty of Public Health, Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy.

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Assessing nutritional status is a common activity of pediatricians and nutritionists to find out and diagnosis of disorders caused by nutritional deficiency and excess, thereby making timely interventions. However, in Vietnam, the application of new tools to assess the nutritional status of children are not widespread and popular. WHO Anthro software is an useful tool recommended to use in assessing nutritional status of children under 5 years old all over the world by WHO. There has been very few published studies on applying WHO Anthro software in Vietnam up to present.

Objectives: 1. Applying WHO Anthro software to assess nutritional status of children under 5 years old in Huong Vinh commune, Huong Tra district, Thua Thien Hue province. 2. Learn some factors related to children's nutritional status.

Subject & Methods: This is a cross-sectional study which was implemented on 328 children under 5 in Huong Vinh commune, Huong Tra district, Thua Thien Hue province from May 2011 to May 2012. To learn the factors related to nutritional status of children, we interviewed 303 mothers of 328 children in the study, including 278 mothers with one child under 5 years old and 25 mothers have 2 children under 5 years old.

The study used proportionate stratified sample method.

Using anthropometric nutritional methods to collect weight, standing height for children ≥ 24 months old and length for children < 24 months old, then used the WHO Anthro software to assess the nutritional status of the children.

Using SPSS 11.5 software for analysis and data processing to find out the factors related to children's nutritional status.

Results: 1. The prevalence of underweight, stunting and wasting were 10.37%, 10.37% and 17.99% respectively. The prevalence of overweight, obesity according to weight for age, length/height for age and weight for length/height were 0.30%, 3.66% and 3.66%
respectively.

2. There were correlations between underweight and supplementary feeding at the wrong time (p<0.05); between underweight and birth weight (p<0.05); between stunting and the educational level of the one who taking care of children directly (p<0.05); between wasting and the educational level and occupation of the one who taking care of children directly (p<0.05).

**Conclusion:** WHO Anthro software is an useful tool for assessing nutritional status of children under 5 years old, espacially for the community. It should be used as a standard tool for evaluating nutritional status of children in health facilities in the country.

**Key words:** WHO Anthro, nutritional status, children under 5, Thua Thien Hue Province.