

A-40: Study of intestinal parasites in an urban slum community in Matara

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Soil transmitted helminthiasis and related protozoan diseases are one of the major public health problems in Sri Lanka. Although sizeable research has been launched, all of them have been concentrated to the Faculties of Medicine research areas (Galle, Colombo or Peradeniya). Since no research has been done on this subject in Matara district and in slum areas, it was decided to carry out

this study in Hamugewatte. As these infections show an age preference, it was decided to compare the age groups which are supposed to be more vulnerable for infections, (Pre-school and school children of 6-12 years) with the most resistant adult group.

The results showed, *N. americanus* infection was most prevalent, (34.0%) while *T. trichiura* infection was the second highest (31.0%). A *lumbricoides* infection has only 19.0% prevalence. Mixed infections of 2 or 3 combinations of geo-helminthic diseases were common as well as single infections. The prevalence of protozoan infections were very low compared to geo-helminthic infections.

Prevalence and intensities of geo-helminthic diseases of slum communities are decreasing due to improvements in living standards and the treatment of children with broad spectrum anthelmintic by their parents. (Galwala community, Galle) it was decided to see whether this kind of improvement has taken place in this community. This kind of study reports are necessary for improving sanitary conditions and in giving mass treatment.