

SCOPE OF FUTURE RESEARCH

Data from the present study showed that undernutrition in children continues to be high. In view of the substantial intrafamily differences in the nutritional status between children from the family it is imperative that all children are screened by anthropometric indicators to assess their nutritional status and appropriate interventions to improve their nutritional status are initiated. Due to limitation of time this could not be attempted in the present study

The Govt of India in Oct 2023, drew up the protocol for community management of under-nutrition in children. The protocol envisaged that growth monitoring will be done in all under-five children; those identified as having moderate (<-2 z score) or severe under-nutrition (<-3 z score of weight for age or weight for height of the WHO growth standards) who are not having any medical problems will be treated in community settings as per the existing ICDS food supplementation norms for under-nourished pre-school children. The protocol is being operationalised in a phased manner.

Research studies have to be initiated to assess operationalisation of the protocol, the coverage under various components and impact of these interventions on the nutritional status of children. These studies could provide inputs for appropriate midcourse corrections in the ongoing programmes and accelerate the impact in terms of improvement in nutritional status of children.

