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**Original article:**

**WHO classification detecting more severe malnutrition: A comparative study with IAP classification**

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**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** According toNFHS-3; In India , 65% i.e. nearly 80 million children under five year of age suffer from varying degree of undernutrition(according to WHO classification). Various classifications are being used to know the nutritional status of children , latest one being WHO classification for undernutrition given in 2006. Here we aim to compare WHO classification with Indian Academy of Pediatrics(IAP) classification for malnutrition in children.

**Material Methods:** This was a cross sectional study conducted in Vadodara District of Gujarat during 2009 till 2011. 1000 children between 6 months till 60 months of age were included. Their height/ length and weight were recorder and classified according to WHO and IAP classification and these were compared statistically.

**Results:** WHO classification classified 90% of children undernourished whereas IAP classification classified 80% of children as undernourished. According to WHO criteria 32% and in IAP criteria only 10% children were severely undernourished. When compared, there was statistically significant (p=0.000) difference in classification by these classifications.

**Conclusion**: WHO classification detects more children with undernutrition but has drawback of classifying more of them in severe category as compared to IAP classification.

**Key words:** WHO classification, IAP classification, Undernutrition