PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS OF SOIL TRANSMITTED HELMINTHS INFECTION AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SERAYA TIMUR VILLAGE, KARANGASEM, BALI

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ABSTRACT

Soil transmitted helminths (STH) in Karangasem, Bali is still quite high. Karangasem health department has now implemented an eradication plan by providing a deworming program, but it is not supported by the program evaluation. This study was aimed to determine the prevalence and the relationship between the risk factors of STH infections in primary school students in Seraya Timur Village, Karangasem, Bali. This study used cross-sectional study and the primary data about risk factors for STH infection were collected by using validated questionnaires. STH infection diagnosis was using the Kato-Katz method. The sampling method that used was total sampling method. A total of 83 students from SDN 4 Seraya Timur were involved in the study. The prevalence of STH infections were 10.84%, with 55.56% of infections from *Trichuris trichiura*, 33.33% infections from *Ascaris lumbricoides*, 11.11% infections from hookworms and 100% of the STH infections were mild. The risk factors that had significant relationship to the STH infections were playing with dirty grounds, playing barefoot, not washing their hands after playing and not cutting their nails regularly. Anthelmintic prescriptions were capable of providing protection against the effects of STH infections. Personal hygiene become a significant risk factor. Therefore, it is recommended to improve health promotion about personal hygiene in addition to the implementation of the worm eradication plan.

Keywords: Prevalence, Primary school children, Risk factors, Soil transmitted helminths infection

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