TITLE: CHILD MALNUTRITION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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INTRODUCTION: Child under malnutrition is a major public health problem especially in many low-income and middle-income countries such as sub-Saharan Africa.
Sub-Sahara Africa is geographically the area of the continent of Africa that lies south of the Sahara (largest hottest desert).
This has made it one of the highest level of malnutrition with children at a greater level of deficiency globally. Based on this, a vivid look at the distribution of malnutrition within its sub-regions is required to the worst affected areas.
This study provides a meta-analysis of the prevalence of malnutrition indicators (stunting, wasting and underweight) within some regions in Africa.

METHODOLOGY:
- Data Source: Data collected from the most recent Demographic and Health Surveys (2006 – 2016) of 32 countries in sub-Saharan Africa were used. The countries were divided into four sub-regions (East Africa, West Africa, South Africa and Central Africa). Thereafter, a meter analysis was conducted to estimate the existence of each malnutrition indicator within each of the sub-regions.
Significant heterogeneity was identified among the various surveys, hence a random effect model was used and sensitivity analysis was performed to examine the effects of outliers.

- Study Selection And Inclusion Criteria : Only countries within recent DHS (2006 – 2016) was used and this was so in order to ensure the prevalence estimate is kept within a 10 year period given the high rates of malnutrition observed in the early 2000s following incidences of war and drought.
Also comprehensive data on the anthropometric indicators of children under 5 years were included in this study.

RESULTS: Stunting was highest in Burundi (57.7%), Malawi (47.1%), Niger (43.9%), Mali (38.3%), Sierra Leon (37.9%), Nigeria (36.8%), Congo (42.7%), Chad (39.9%) and many others in the Southern and Central Africa.

CONCLUSION: The prevalence of malnutrition was highest within countries in East Africa and West Africa as compared to the WHO Millennium development goals. Appropriate nutrition intervention needs to be prioritised in East Africa and West Africa if sub-Saharan Africa is to meet the WHO global nutrition target of improving maternal, infant and young nutrition by 2025.

Biography: I am Kwadwo Boakye, 28 years old and a level 300 undergraduate student studying Biological Science at the Garden City University College, Ghana.
I am currently the head of student representative council for the Bio-chemistry department of the University. I have worked hand in hand and under learned professors of the University and Doctors assisting them in investigations, experimentations, data sampling and few among others.

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