

# Prevalence and Factors Associated with Under-nutrition among Children of Freed-bonded Laborers' (Mukta-kamaiya) in Nepal

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## INTRODUCTION

Bonded labor system was practiced in Nepal since the 16th century. Kamaiya, and Haliya were two major types of bonded labor systems. In 2002 AD, Government of Nepal freed bonded laborers. Many children of these communities are vulnerable to under-nutrition.

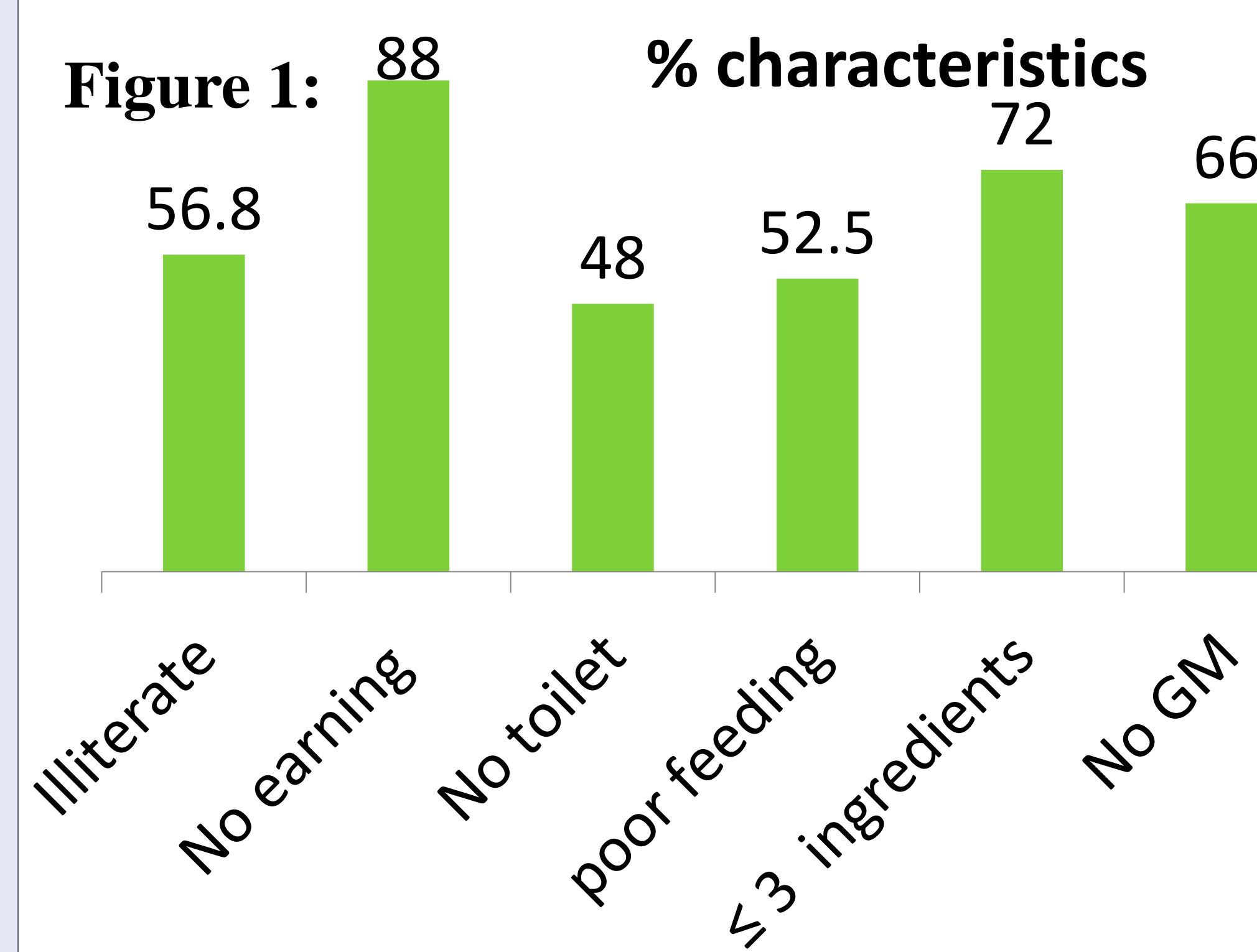
## OBJECTIVES

- To identify the prevalence of under-nutrition of U-5 children
- To determine the factors associated with under-nutrition among the children of freed-bonded laborers in Banke district.

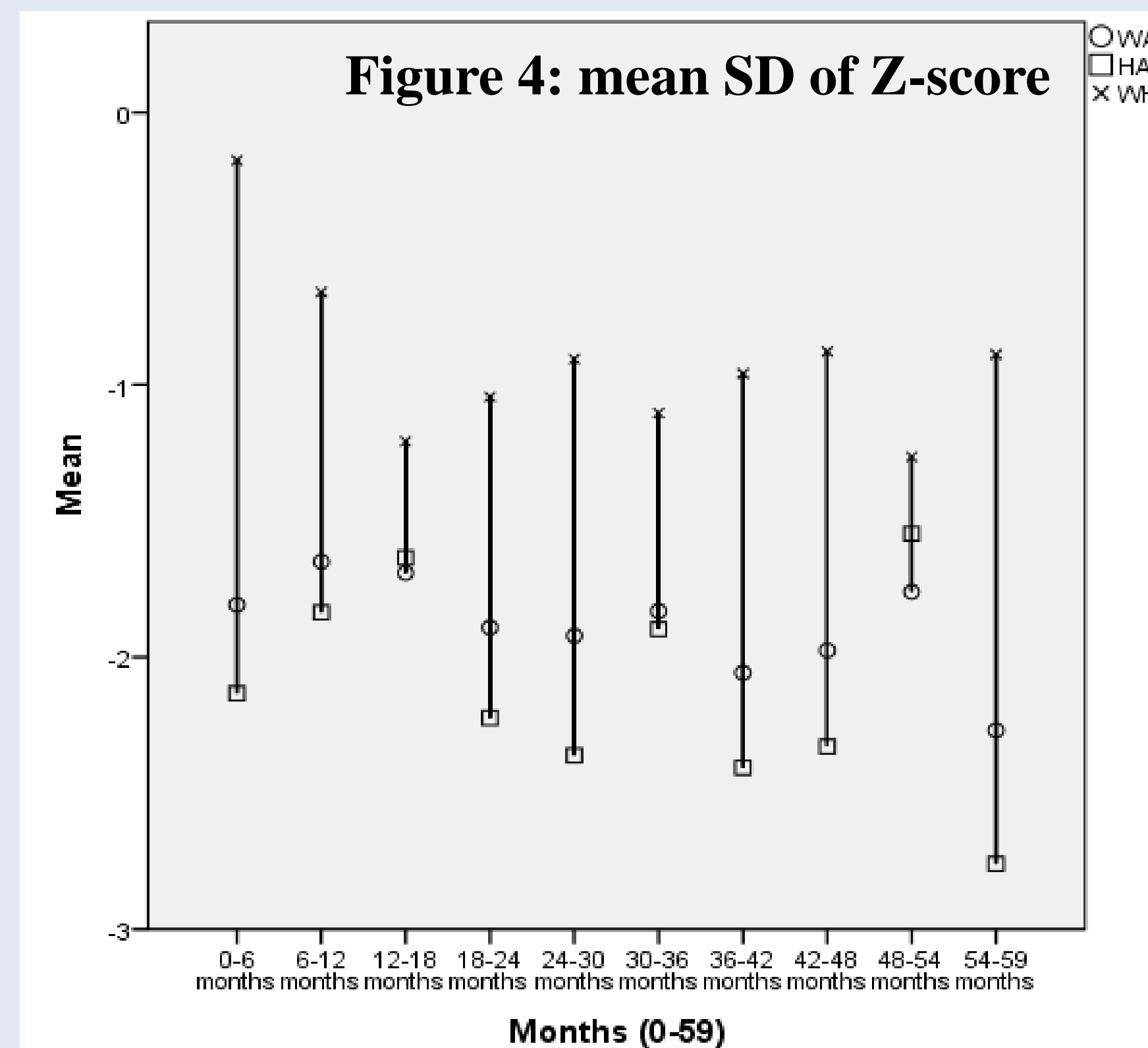
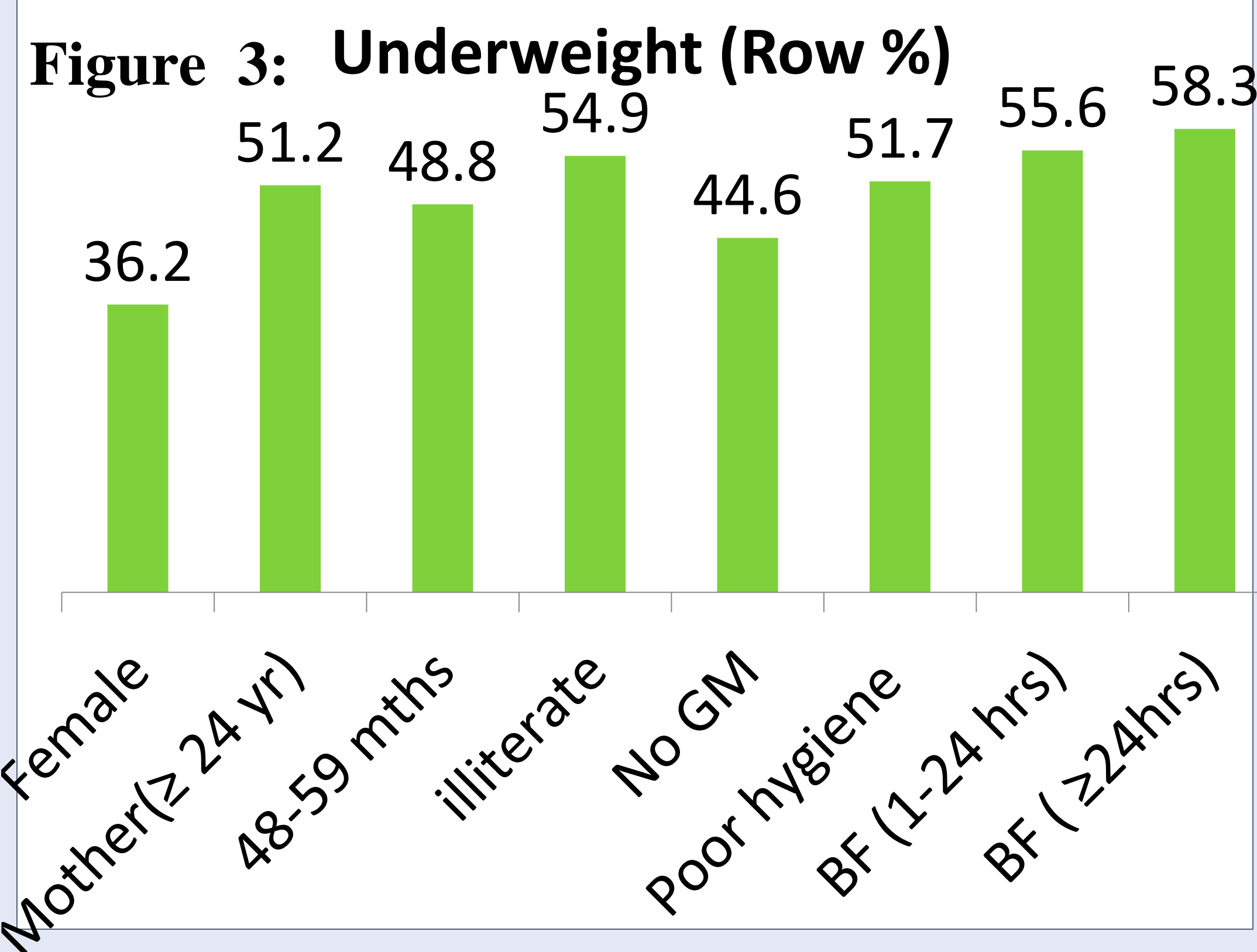
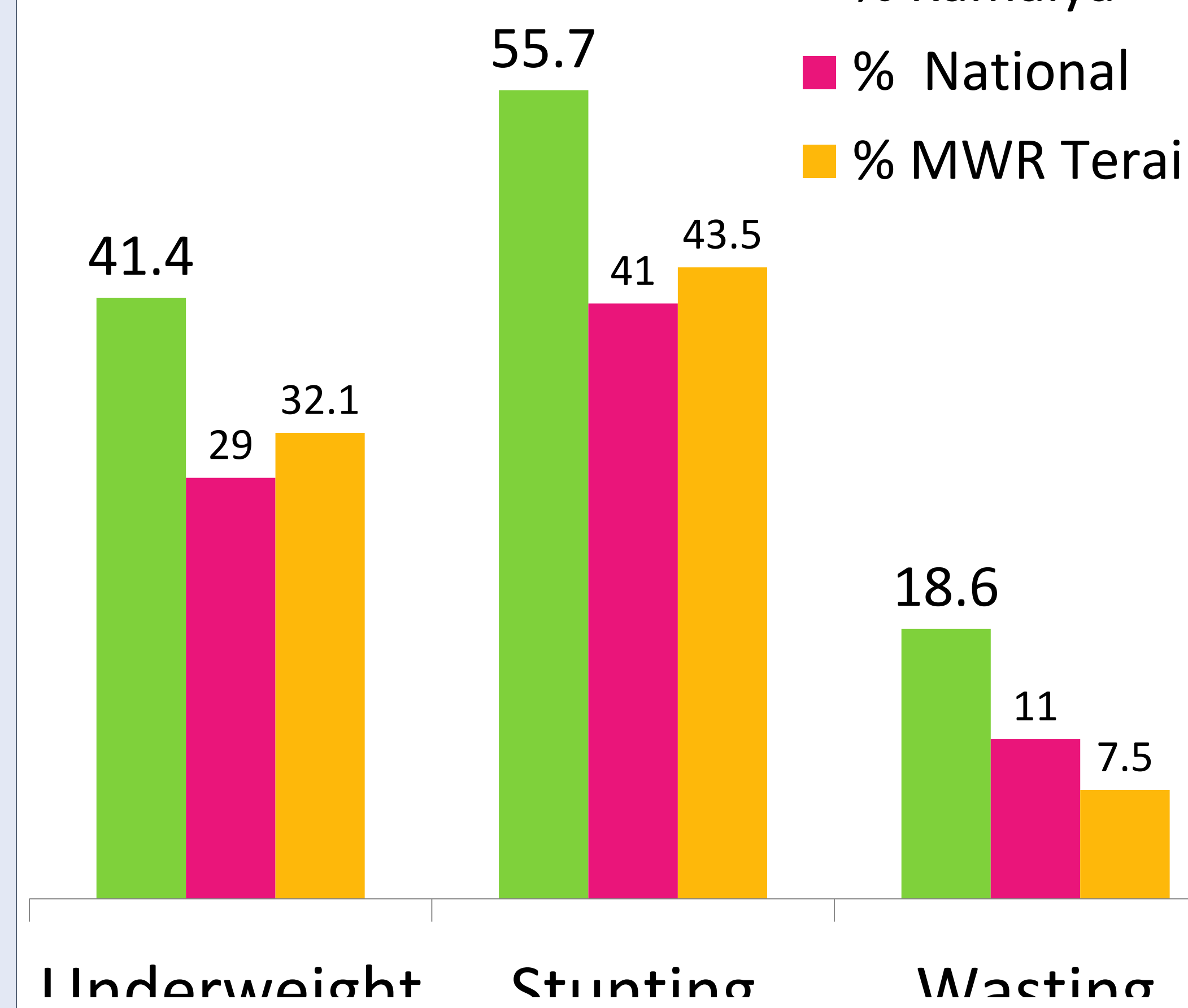
## METHODS AND MATERIALS

- Face-to-face interview was conducted in June-August 2012, with mothers using semi-structured questionnaires
- Height and weight of 280 children aged U-5 years was taken and under-nutrition was categorized based on WHO standards
- Data were entered Epi Data 3.1.1 and analyzed in SPSS19
- Chi-square test was applied and multivariate logistic regression was examined to find the association with underweight

## RESULTS



**Figure 2: Nutritional status (n=280), compared with NDHS 2011**



Female children were more likely to be underweight than male. Children were less likely to be underweight if their mothers were at least 24 years of age

## CONCLUSIONS

- The prevalence of under-nutrition among the children of freed-bonded communities is high.
- Child feeding practices and sanitation practices are poor among the mothers.
- Health education activities on personal hygiene, child feeding practices during illness and growth monitoring practices should focus for proper improvement of nutritional status.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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