

SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND GASTROINTESTINAL INFECTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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ABSTRACT

Background: Gastrointestinal (GI) infections are responsible for high morbidity and mortality worldwide. GI infections can be caused by viruses, bacteria, or parasites that settle in GI tract. Currently, more than 2 billion people worldwide are infected with worms. High prevalence of helminth infection is found in developing countries. In Indonesia, helminth infection is the high public health problem after malnutrition. The purpose of this study was to systematically review socioeconomic status and gastrointestinal infection in developing countries.

Subjects and Method: This was a systematic review. Research question was formulated to guide the process of searching and extracting selected articles. The research question was formulated in PICOC format: (1) Population, (2) Intervention, (3) Comparison, (4) Outcome, and (5) Context.

Results: Highest prevalence and intensity of helminth infection was found among elementary school children. World Bank reported that helminth infection is mostly experienced by population of children aged 5-14 years. The prevalence of helminth infection in Indonesia remains high is associated with poverty, poor sanitation, and lack of clean water.

Conclusion: Helminth infection in Indonesia remains high. It is associated with poverty, poor sanitation, and lack of clean water.

Keywords: gastrointestinal infection, helminth infection, socioeconomics

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