SCHOOL - BASED DEWORMING: REINFORCEMENT PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF SOIL - TRANSMITTED HELMINTHS (STH)

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School-based deworming programs are one of the most cost-effective and low cost public health strategies to reach children with anthelminthic. Despite their low cost and a tremendous health impact on children, school-based deworming is not implemented on large scale. Only those who have permit from the parents or guardian can undergo on the school-based deworming. Teachers did not receive any specific training but were able to distribute the drug successfully following nutritional status report of the children. Only those normal in the nutritional status can be administered by the drug.

Soil-transmitted helminths (STH) have a serious deleterious result on the health of children and adults. Soil-transmitted helminths (STH) are frequently trans-mitted in both most tropical and sub-tropical countries due to lack of education on health and hygiene, proper sanitation and essential health care. Children and pregnant women are particularly the most vulnerable with STH, since worm infections are associated with intestinal malabsorption and iron and vitamin A deficiency, reduced growth in height or weight and impaired school performances.

Soil-transmitted helminthiasis and schistosomiasis affects more people, with the greatest burden in the poorest countries of the world. The global strategy for addressing this parasitic worm infections is mass deworming with anthelminthic drugs that are administered annually through school-based deworming to school-aged children. The goal is to control morbidity at the population level of the infected which might reduce disease transmission.
Soil-transmitted helminths remain common in many low- and middle-income countries. The worms are unpleasant, cause discomfort and with heavy infections can undermine nutritional status and lead to serious complications. Control of these neglected tropical diseases and where to prioritize specific control interventions among many health needs to be addressed in every school.

References:

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