

Prevalence and Predictors of Anaemia Among Adolescent Girls in Rural Hadero Tunto District, Southern Ethiopia: Community Based Study

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Abstract: Introduction: During adolescent anaemia has negative consequence on cognitive, work performance and economic productive. However, there is limited evidence on the prevalence and factors associated with anaemia among adolescent girls. Objectives: To assess the prevalence and associated factors of anaemia among rural adolescent girls in Hadero Tunto zuria district, Southern Ethiopia. Methods: A community based comparative cross-sectional study was conducted among adolescent girls 10-19 years. A total of 406 subjects were randomly selected. A structured questionnaire was used to collect the data. Blood haemoglobin level was determined from capillary blood using the Haemocue method. Data were entered into computer and analyzed using SPSS versions 20.0. Bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses were conducted to examine the factors associated with anaemia. Result: The mean (\pm SD) of haemoglobin concentration adjusted for altitude was 13.7 \pm 1.2 (SD) and ranged from 8 to 16.6g/dl. Over all prevalence of anaemia was found to be 15.2% [95%CI: 11.68%, 18.72%]. Out of the total 406 adolescent girls 13.7% [95% CI: 10.33%, 17.06%] and 1.5% [95%CI: 0.3%, 2.7%] had mild and moderate anaemia, respectively. Low dietary diversity, (AOR= 10.0, 95% CI: 1.70, 60.0), long menstrual duration (AOR=5.10, 95% CI: 1.43, 18.15), malaria attack history (AOR=3.50, 95%CI: 1.40, 8.57), and less frequent consumption of legumes (AOR=3.20, 95%CI: 1.17, 8.74) were significantly associated with anaemia. Furthermore, the prevalence of stunting and thinness was 21.3% and 16.8%, respectively. Conclusion: Anaemia is a public health problem in the study area; which require integrated governmental and NGO intervention to tackle the burden; enhance dietary diversity, promote Insecticide Treated Bednets (ITNs) utilization and adolescent nutrition education are important strategies to reduce the burden of anaemia.

Keywords: Rural Community, Adolescent Anaemia, Hadero Tunto District

1. Introduction

World Health Organization (WHO) defines 'adolescents' are individuals in the age range of 10-19 years [1, 2]. Adolescents are crucial period for growth and development, most of the existed literature witness adolescent is among high risk groups for iron deficiency Anaemia due to enhanced increase in requirements for iron, this due to rapid pubertal growth with sharp rise in lean body mass, blood volume and red cell mass, which increases iron needs for

myoglobin in muscles and haemoglobin in the blood [3]. According to WHO [4] Iron-deficiency anaemia is one of the top five leading cause of global adolescent disability adjusted life year (DALYS) lost, by sex and age group. Anaemia and under nutrition is a major public health problem among adolescent girls [5, 6]. Globally, the common cause of anaemia is iron deficiency, consequential from extended negative iron balance, affected by inadequate dietary iron intake and estimated 50% of anaemia in women worldwide is due to iron deficiency [7, 21]. In developing

country, Anaemia affects large number of population [8]. Anaemia is a global public health problem with serious consequences for human health and development [21]. The widespread prevalence of Anaemia, both in the developed and developing worlds its of great concern [9]. In Africa a study report from 34 countries revealed that the estimated prevalence of anemia among adolescent and young females ranges from 15% to over 50% [10].

Even though recently additional emphasis is being given to the nutritional status of adolescents, most of the existing studies are limited to macro nutritional status. as initiatives gives attention only to prevent anaemia commonly target infants, young children and pregnant and lactating women, and not adolescents, the needs of adolescents may remain unmet, and the consequences of anaemia in adolescents continued. And also most of the existed studies are school and health facility based, so this study conducted at community level aims to assess the prevalence and associated factor of anaemia among adolescent girls.

2. Methods and Materials

Context: This study was conducted in Hadero Tunto Zuria (HTZ) district which was located 32 km from Zonal town Durame, 192km from regional capital city of SNNPR Hawassa and 292 km from the capital city of Ethiopia Addis Ababa. HTZ district is one of the 7 districts which are found in Kembata Tembaro Zone. The district has 14 rural kebeles and 02 urban kebeles. Based on projection from 2007 Population and Housing Census report, the total population in 2014/15 is estimated to be 127,059 among these 62,767 are males and 64,292 are females. From this, 74% of population resides in rural area and the rest 26% reside in town. Concerning to the health service facilities, there are 04 health centers and also 20 health posts on behalf of government and there are also 02 medium, 11 Junior clinic, 02 drug vendor and 02 drug store facilities owned by private owners. On the side of government, the health facilities covered by 10 health officers, 98 all types of nurses, 10 midwives and 48 health extension workers to access the service to the respective communities. From those 04 health centers 01 HC is giving youth friendly service for adolescent and health coverage of the district was 90% [11].

Sample size: sample size was determined using single and double population proportion formula. Sample size was calculated by assuming the prevalence of adolescents girls anemia is 7.1% that was taken from previous study [12] with 95% confidence level, 3.5% margin of error and design effect of 1.5.

For the first objective:

Assumption: Based on the previous study, the prevalence of anaemia among adolescent is 7.1% [12]

Where: n = Sample size, α = Level of significance (set at 0.05), z = the standard normal deviate with 95% CI (1.96), p = Expected prevalence, d = Degree of precision (0.035)

$$n = \frac{(z_{1-\alpha/2})^2 p(1-p)}{d^2}$$

$n = (207 + (207 * 10\% \text{ non-response rate})) * 1.5$ considering a design effect of 1.5 and a non-response rate of 10%, the total sample size was

$n = 342$ adolescent girls.

For the second objective:

The sample size calculation for second objective, double population proportion formula used with Epi info version 7 software, with the assumption of 95% CL, 80% power, 1:1 ratio of control to case and 10% non -respondent rate.

The first sample size which was 342, for adequacy, representativeness and to meet the objective 406 adolescent girls was recruited. In order to, assess the prevalence and associated factors of anaemia among adolescent girls.

Sampling technique: First of all, all kebeles in the district was listed and stratified into 3 ecological zones: Highland, midland and lowland. The sample size was allocated to the strata proportional to the population size. For each stratum 2 kebeles was selected at random. So, the sample size was distributed to the selected kebeles proportional to their population size. A sampling frame of adolescent girls were generated by identifying the number of adolescent girls living in each kebele using family folder (community health information system) from health extension workers who had the information in their respective kebeles. Then simple random sampling method was used to select 10-19 year adolescent girls from the frame.

Data collection Technique: structured pretested questionnaire was used to collected data. The socio-demographic aspected of the questionnaire was taken from EDHS 2011 [13] and household dietary diversity (DD) was measured by using Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) III tool and the DD was asked by using 24 hour recall method [14]. For that the subject should be asked whether she had taken any food from 12 food categories on the last day [15]. The questionnaire was developed based on the conceptual framework of the study. The questionnaire was developed in English and later translated into Amharic language and back translated to English to check its consistency.

The data collection was conducted by 4 clinical nurses, 1 laboratory technician and 1 laboratory technologist from the existing health system that were easily familiarize with the tool while conducting the training and actual data collection. The close follow-up by the very experienced supervisors, who was health professional from district health office after taking training about the purpose and method of administering the questionnaire together with data collectors. One immediate supervisor for three kebeles was assigned to the selected kebeles. Supervisors had checked whether the questionnaires were appropriately filled by the trained interviewers during the house-to-house survey. Adolescent girls were first informed about the study and its aim, and those agreeing to participate had given a written consent.

Haematology: Blood haemoglobin concentration was measured using a HemoCue Hb 301 [16], (Angelholm, Sweden). Capillary blood was taken, through microcuvettes, and inserted into the HemoCue and the result was recorded, done by experienced laboratory technician. The necessary

safety measures were taken during blood collection.

Measurements of height and weight were taken according to the WHO's guideline. Important anthropometric indicators were height-for-age z-scores (HAZ) and BMI z-scores (BMIZ) used and interpreted using age and sex specific cut off points recommended by WHO/CDC [17]. WHO reference 2007 used for interpretation [18] and WHO antroplus software used for assessing anthropometric data [19].

Data quality: the questionnaire was pretest on 20 adolescent girls those had similar socio-demographic characteristics out of study population. After pre-test, discussions were carried and based on the experience gained through the pre-test amendment to questionnaire missing part like skipping pattern, age category and food frequency questions were made correction. Data quality was ensured during instrument development, collection, coding, entry and analysis. The questionnaire first prepared in English and then translated into Amharic language and back translated to English in order to check its consistency. Then data collectors were trained for a day about the purpose of the study and how to administer the questionnaire. Mock interviews and practical sessions on blood testing were also addressed in the training. During data collection, the questionnaire was checked for its completeness on daily basis by the supervisors. Incorrectly filled or missed questionnaires were returned back to the respective data collectors for correction. The investigator was also rechecking the completed questionnaires to maintain the quality of the data. There was discussion with data collectors and supervisors in every morning before the next day data collection. Data quality was also ensured during data coding, cleaning, entry to computer and during analysis.

Data Analysis: Data were checked manually for its completeness and consistency, entered into Statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) versions 20.0 software, and cleaned by the principal investigator. Data were described and summarized using frequency, percentage, tables, graphs and measures of central tendency and dispersion. Bivariate and multivariable logistic regression were applied to assess the association of socio-demographic and other independent factors with anemia. The outputs of the regression analysis were given with crude odds ratio and adjusted odds ratio with their respective confidence intervals. Criteria for exporting variables to the multivariate model were p-value less than 0.25. Variables with P-value less than 0.05 were used to declare statistically significant association.

Ethical consideration: Ethical clearance was obtained from IRB of Hawassa University College of Medicine and Health Science and formal letters was written from regional health bureau to district. A written and informed consent and assent had been taken from the parents and adolescent girls, respectively. Those who weren't willing to participate had been given the right to do so. Confidentiality had been ensured.

3. Result

Of 406 adolescent girls recruited for the study, 400

(98.5%) of the study subject participated voluntarily and as described in the method section the respondents were selected from 6 kebeles. Most of the respondents, 393 (98.0%), were rural residents. About 130 (32.5%), 135 (33.8%), and 135 (33.8%) were selected from high, middle and lowlands, respectively. The altitude of the Kebeles included in the study ranged from 1518 to 2450 meters above sea level.

The mean (+SD) age of the adolescent girls was 15.1 (± 2.8 SD) years and ranged from 10 to 19. About 167 (41.8%) were in the early adolescent age group of 10-14 years, while 233 (58.3%) were in the late adolescent age group of 15-19 years. As the educational background of the adolescent girls is concerned, 372 (93.0%) had attended formal education, of which were 327 (81.8%), and 45 (11.3%) had attained primary and secondary education respectively, while the rest 28 (7.0%) were illiterates.

Majority, 384 (96.0%) of the study subject were single (unmarried). Regarding father educational status, illiterate fathers took the highest proportion, 213 (53.3%) and, while the rest 129 (32.3%) and 58 (14.5%) were attended primary and secondary or above school, respectively. The majority of 333 (83.3%) of father's occupation were farming and followed by merchant 48 (12%), the rest 11 (2.8%) were civil servant. More than half, 264 (66.0%) of the respondents mother's had not attained formal education, which were illiterate. The rest 112 (28.0%), and 24 (6.0%) had attained the formal education in primary and secondary or above, respectively. Higher proportion 310 (77.5%) of mothers were not involved in income generating activity (IGA), while the remaining 90 (22.5%) had income generating activity.

The median family size was 7.0 ranged from 3 to 13. Majority of the respondent, 241 (60.3%) had 4-7 family size, about 18 (4.5%) of the respondent had 1-3 family size, while the rest 141 (35.3%) of the study participant had 8 or above family size respectively. Higher proportion of respondents 386 (96.5%) were Protestant religion and the rest 11 (2.8%) of the study subjects were orthodox religion. Regarding to the ethnic group distribution, more than half, 245 (61.3%) were kembata and 64 (16.0%) were Donga, while the rest 55 (13.8%) and 16 (4.0%) were Hadiya and Amahara, respectively (Table 1).

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristic of adolescent girls in HTZ district, KTZ, SNNPR, Ethiopia, 2016.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age (year) (n=400)		
10-14	167	41.8
15-19	233	58.3
Family size (n=400)		
1-3	18	4.5
4-7	241	60.3
>8	141	35.3
Adolescent educational (n=400)		
Illiterate	28	7.0
Primary (1-8 grade)	327	81.8
Secondary above	45	11.3
Marital status (n=400)		
Single	384	96.0

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Others	16	4.0
Religion (n=400)		
Protestant	386	96.5
Others	14	3.5
Father education (n=400)		
Illiterate	213	53.3
Primary (1-8 grade)	129	32.3
Secondary or above	58	14.5
Mother education (n=400)		
Illiterate	264	66.0
Primary (1-8 grade)	112	28.0
Secondary or above	24	6.0
Father occupation (n=400)		
Farmer	333	83.3
Civil servant	11	2.8
Merchant	48	12.0
Others	8	2.0
Mother IGA (n=400)		
Yes	90	22.5
No	310	77.5
Household wealth index (n=397)		
Poor	159	40.1
Medium	80	20.2
Richer	158	39.8
Residence (n=400)		
Rural	393	98.3
Urban	7	1.8

Knowledge about anemia

As described in the methods section, knowledge towards anemia was assessed using composite index. Only 29 (7.3%) adolescent girls had good knowledge regarding anemia and 79 (19.9%) of the study participant had average knowledge, while the rest 289 (72.8%) of study subject had poor knowledge regarding anaemia (Figure 1).

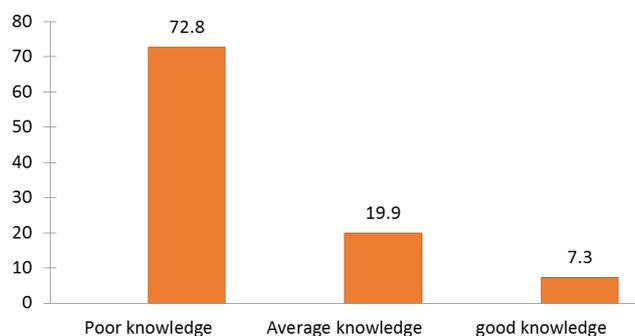


Figure 1. Frequency distribution of knowledge regarding anemia among adolescent girls in HTZ district, 2016.

Dietary intake of adolescents

The respondents were asked to describe their staple diet; most respondents mentioned maize based (180 (45%)) and root based (133 (33.3%)) foods; while Enset and teff based foods were mentioned by 65 (16.3%) and 21 (5.3%) of the respondents, respectively.

Based on FANTA score household DDS were calculated out of 12 food groups. The mean (\pm SD) household DDS was 4.09 (\pm 1.05) and ranged from 2 to 7. Based on the cutoff points recommended by FAO, the majority 242 (60.5%) had medium DD, 115 (28.8%) of the study subjects had low and

the remaining 43 (10.8%) had high DD (Figure 2). Most of the adolescent girls, 347 (86.8%) ate food made from root and followed by 295 (73.8%) of cereals, 235 (58.8%) of milk and milk product, 180 (45.0%) of legumes, 114 (28.5%) of oil or butter, 58 (14.5%) of eggs, 34 (8.5%) of meat and no one ate fresh or dried fish.

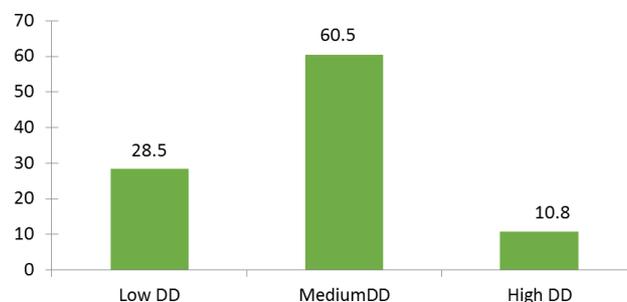


Figure 2. Frequency of dietary diversity score among adolescent girls in HTZ district, 2016.

The dietary intake pattern was also assessed using food frequency method. The mean (\pm SD) frequency of meat consumption per week was 1.36 (\pm 0.54). Among the adolescent girls, 266 (66.5%) of them had not eaten meat in the preceding week, while the rest 123 (30.8%) and 12 (3.0%) had eaten 1-2 times and $>$ 3 times per week, respectively. More than half, 214 (53.5%) respondent ate greens leafy vegetables $>$ 3 times per week, about 141 (35.3%) of the study participant had eaten green leafy vegetable 1-2 times per week, while the rest 45 (11.3%) of the respondents had not eaten green leafy vegetables per week. The mean (\pm SD) frequency of consumption of green leaf vegetable per week was 2.42 (\pm 0.68). More than half, 225 (56.3%) of the respondent had eaten legumes $>$ 3 times per week, 134 (33.6%) the study subjects reported that as they ate legumes 1-2 times per week, while the rest 40 (10.0%) adolescent girls had not eaten legumes per week (Table 2).

Table 2. Pattern of intake of selected food items for adolescent girls in rural HTZ district, KTZ, SNNPR, Ethiopia, 2016.

Food item	Frequency of meal intake per week		
	No (%)	1-2 times (%)	$>$ 3times (%)
Meat	66.3	30.8	3.0
Green vegetables	11.3	35.3	53.5
Legumes	10.0	33.6	56.3

Regarding adolescent dietary frequency, meal frequency was 3-4 times per day for the majority of adolescent girls 390 (97.5%), but 10 (2.5%) of the adolescent girls reported that they eat only 1-2 times a day. Furthermore, the study participant asked to describe the yesterday feeding frequency, only 26 (6.5%) of the adolescent girls mentioned, as they ate 1-2 times per day, while the rest 374 (93.5%) of study participant ate 3-4 times per day (Table 3).

Of 400 study subjects, 284 (71.0%) of the respondents had coffee drinking habit after meals, of which 196 (70.0%) consumed 2-4 cup, 52 (18.6%) and 32 (11.4%) of the respondents had consumed less than 2 cup and greater than 4 cup of coffee, respectively.

Table 3. Frequency distribution of diet and health service related variables among Adolescent girl; HTZ district, KTZ, SNNPR, Ethiopia, 2016.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Staple diet		
Maize based	180	45.0
Root based	134	33.5
Enset based	65	16.3
Teff based	21	5.3
Dietary diversity		
High	43	10.8
Medium	242	60.5
Low	115	28.5
Meal frequency/day in a typical day		
1-2 times	10	2.5
3-4 times	390	97.5
Meal frequency/day in the preceeding day		
1-2 times	26	6.5
3-4 times	374	93.5
Average coffee consumption per day (cups)		
< 2	52	13.0
2-4	196	49.0
>4	32	8.0

Prevalence of stunting and underweight among adolescents
 Nutritional status of adolescent girls was evaluated by using BMI-for-age and height-for-age, the mean (\pm SD) z-scores for the two indices were -0.70 ± 1.30 , and -0.51 ± 1.37 ,

respectively. Out of the study participant, 66 (16.5%) had BMI-for-age less than $-2SD$, they were thinness, and 85 (21.3%) of the respondent had height-for-age less than $-2SD$, indicating stunted (Figure 3).

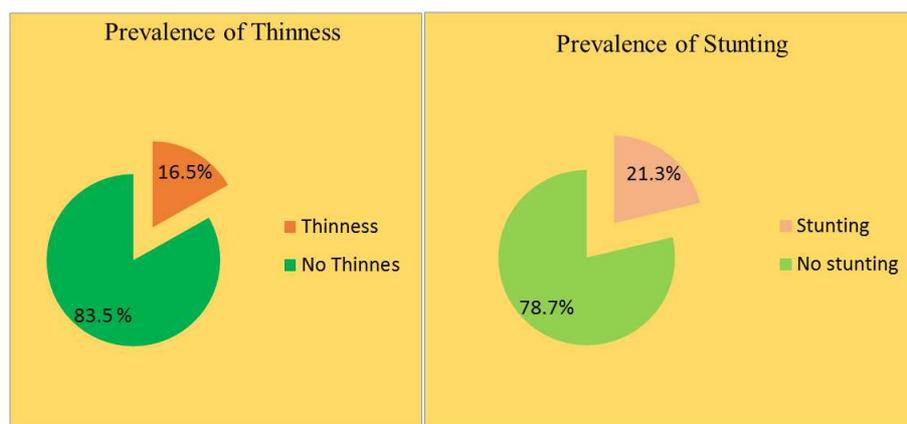


Figure 3. Distribution for prevalence of thinness and stunting among adolescent girls in HTZ district, 2016.

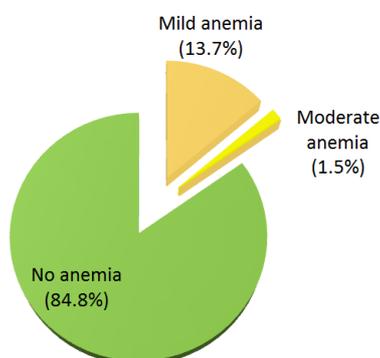


Figure 4. Distribution of prevalence of anaemia among adolescent girls in HTZ district, KTZ, SNNPR, 2016.

Prevalence of Anaemia

The mean (\pm SD) of haemoglobin concentration adjusted

for altitude [20] was 13.7 ± 1.2 and ranged from 8.0 to 16.6 g/dl. The overall prevalence of anemia was 15.2% [95% CI: 11.7%, 18.7%]. Out of the total 400 adolescent girls 13.7% [95% CI: 10.3%, 17.1%] and 1.5% [95%CI: 0.3%, 2.7%] had mild and moderate anaemia, respectively. But there was no severe anaemia case in this study (Figure 4).

Factors association with anaemia

A total of 21 variables were considered for the bivariate analysis. These include, age and educational status of the adolescent, father's and mother's educational status, father occupation, mothers involvement in IGA, family size, household wealth index, marital status of the adolescent, stunting, thinness, history of malaria infection, frequency of green vegetables, legumes and meat consumption, distance from nearby health facility, menstrual duration, heavy menstrual bleeding, physical workload, dietary diversity and knowledge on anemia.

During the bivariate analysis 9 variables were found to have p value less than 0.25, these include, father occupation, history of malaria infection, frequency of meat consumption, frequency of legumes consumption, menstrual duration, physical workload, heavy menstrual bleeding, dietary diversity and knowledge regarding anemia, hence considered for the multivariate analysis.

However, after adjustment was made using multivariate model, low dietary diversity, [AOR=10.0, 95% CI: 1.70, 60.0], long menstrual duration [AOR=5.10, 95%CI: 1.43, 18.15], malaria attack history [AOR=3.50, 95%CI: 1.40, 8.57] and less frequently consumption of legumes [AOR=3.20, 95%CI: 1.17, 8.74] showed significant association with anemia (Table 4).

The prevalence of anemia was higher among those who had low dietary diversity, as compare to their counterparts. Taking high DD group as a reference, the odds were 10.0 [95% CI: 1.7, 60.0] times increased in the low DD category.

Similarly, those who consumed legumes less frequently (1-2 times /week) had 3.20 [AOR=3.20, 95%CI: 1.17, 8.74] times increased odds of developing anemia, as compared to those who consume legumes three or more times per week. The proportion of anemia was higher among those who had history of malaria infection in the last 3 months, and the odds were 3.48 times higher in the group [AOR=3.48, 95% CI: 1.4, 8.57].

In the bivariate analysis, adolescent girls who had heavy menstrual bleeding compared to light menses had increased odds of anemia. However, in multivariate logistic model the association failed to be significant. On the other hand, the relationship between menstrual duration and anemia risk was assessed. Less than 5 days considering as reference, the odds of being anemic were 5.10 times [AOR=5.10, 95% CI: 1.43, 18.15] higher among adolescent girls whose menstrual duration stay 5-7 days than in those whose menstrual duration was less than 5 days (Table 4).

Table 4. Multivariate Logistic regression model analysis of predictors influencing anemia among adolescent girls rural HTZ district, KTZ, SNNPR, Ethiopia, 2016, (n=400).

Variables	Anemia		COR 95% CI	AOR 95% CI
	Yes	No		
Father occupation				
Others	5	14	2.50 [0.66, 9.47]	0.44 [0.04, 5.60]
Farmers	50	283	1.23 [0.49, 3.06]	1.24 [0.32, 4.85]
Merchant	6	42	1	1
Knowledge score				
Poor	43	246	2.36 [0.54, 10.29]	1.15 [0.19, 6.76]
Average	14	65	2.91 [0.62, 13.67]	1.64 [0.25, 10.79]
Good	2	27	1	1
Frequency of legumes consumption/week				
0	9	31	2.04 [0.88, 4.74]	2.87 [0.77, 10.70]
1-2 times	23	111	1.46 [0.80, 2.65]	3.20 [1.17, 8.74]*
>3 times	28	197	1	1
Frequency of meat consumption/week				
0	40	225	0.36 [0.10, 1.24]	0.40 [0.03, 4.83]
1-2 times	17	106	0.32 [0.09, 1.18]	0.62 [0.50, 7.58]
>3 times	4	8	1	1
Menstrual duration				
5-7 days	18	12	12.35 [5.35, 28.49]*	5.10 [1.43, 18.15]*
< 5 days	26	214	1	1
Menstrual bleeding				
Heavy	22	23	6.76 [3.08, 14.80]*	2.60 [0.83, 8.23]
Light	23	203	1	1
Dietary diversity score				
Low	34	81	8.60 [1.96, 37.60]*	10.04 [1.68, 60.09]*
Medium	24	217	2.27 [0.52, 9.97]	2.85 [0.50, 17.9]
High	2	41	1	1
Physical workload				
Over loaded	35	77	3.64 [1.22, 9.29]*	2.13 [0.43, 10.50]
Equally loaded	21	225	0.69 [0.25, 1.95]	0.74 [0.14, 3.71]
Less than others	5	37	1	1
Malaria infection history				
Yes	30	49	5.73 [3.19, 10.29]*	3.50 [1.40, 8.58]*
No	31	290	1	1

*statistically significant variables at p< 0.05, 95% CI –confidence interval

Note: All variables with the p< 0.25 in the bivariate was included in the multivariate to be analyzed

4. Discussion

In the present study, the overall prevalence of anemia among adolescents' girls was 15.2%. This was 2 in 10 adolescent, showed that there is substantial burden of Anaemia in the district. The figure might have been underestimated as the study was conducted in January – a relatively food surplus season. Furthermore, the effect of seasonal fluctuations of other risk factors e.g. malaria might not been captured due to the cross-sectional nature of the study. The present finding is comparable with the previous estimated prevalence of anaemia for Ethiopia among adolescent and young female 15% [10] and National prevalence in Ethiopia, 15% [13].

The present finding is higher than study report from Tigray, Ethiopia 7.1% [12], prevalence of Anaemia was 14% [22]. On other side, the current finding is lower than study report of Maharashtra, India 87% [23], rural adolescent 75% [24]; in Bangladesh 51.6% [25]; in Tertiary Care Hospital 50% [26]; Jimma, South West Ethiopia 37.6% [27]; South west of Ethiopia 28% [6]; and Afar, North East Ethiopia 22.8% [29]. The reason for variation might be socio-economical and geographical differences contributed.

In this study, the majority of anaemia cases 13.7% were mild (Hgb level <12 g/dl) followed by 1.5% of moderate anaemia (7-9.9 g/dl) and a similar condition was observed in Jimma, Ethiopia, in which majority of the cases had moderate anaemia (19.6%), mild anemia (18.1%) and no severe case [27]. Study in India Aurangabad district, Maharashtra showed similar, there was no severe case detected [30].

On other hand, by taking the WHO reference standard, -2 SD (Z score) as a cutoff point [18]. In this present study, adolescent girls showed evidence of stunting on the basis of height-for-age < -2SD ZScore. The present prevalence of stunted and thinness were account as 21.3% and 16.5%, respectively. This finding is similar with the study report of nutritional status of adolescent girls in thinness 21.6% and stunting 15% [31]. On other side, the study report from Chiro, West Hararge. Ethiopia stunting and underweight was 7.2% and 24.4% [32]; in Urban Slums of Dibrugarh was 31.33% and 25.7% [33] respectively and study finding in Jimma Zone, South West Ethiopia were showed that 83.8% and 16.0% of underweight and stunting, respectively [34]; in Raipur city Chhattisgarh, India was 53.8% [35] and also adolescent stunting was reported 18.6% [36].

Nutritionally adolescence is critical life period; hence, adolescent girls are advised to eat diversified diet than usual. However, this was not the case in the study area, the level of diet diversity among this study participant was lower and it was significantly associated with anaemia in this study. This study report is agreed with the study finding West Uganda [37].

Malaria attack history in the last 3 month duration was the factor that revealed a significantly association with occurrence of anaemia in adolescent girls [AOR=3.5], this finding is similar to the study conducted in Gonder, North West Ethiopia, malaria attack history was 13.28 times odds of increased to develop anaemia [38] and Western Uganda,

anemia was positively correlated with malaria [37]. The reason might be failure to seek early diagnosis and treatment of malaria that might lead to increased RBC destruction and consequently, end up in anaemia.

In our study, long duration of menstruation (more than five days) among adolescent girls significantly associated with anaemia [AOR=5.10]. This is consistent with the study conducted elsewhere in Bangladesh, Tangail region, menstrual duration 5 days or more was risk factor for anemia [39] India, menstrual cycle lasting 7 or more days was important contributing factors for anemia [40]. Cooke et al [41] and Power et al [42] also witness adolescent girls with heavy menstrual bleeding can cause anaemia. This is likely due to the blood loss secondary to long menstrual duration.

In the present study, there was no significant association found between the age of adolescent, educational status of adolescent, educational status of father and mother, marital status of adolescent girls, occupation of father and mother, family size and anaemia in this study. This result was similar with the study finding [28].

5. Conclusion

The current finding reported substantial burden of anaemia (15.2%) and under nutrition (21.6 thinness and 15% stunting) among adolescent girls in the study area. Malaria attack history, low dietary diversity, long menstrual duration and less frequent consumption of legumes identified as contributing factors for adolescent anaemia. To make significant effect, it needs strong integrative strategies, policy makers, governmental and NGO intervention to tackle this public health burden.

Availability of Data and Materials

We have data already collected from community and entered SPSS and analyzed. So we declare an Availability of data and materials.

Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

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Authors' Contributions

The authors participated in the preparation of the study design, data collection, analysis and interpretation of data. Authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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