

**POOR PERSONAL HYGIENE AND SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS PROMOTED
ANCYLOSTOMIASIS IN CHILDREN RESIDING IN URBAN AREAS OF LAHORE**

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ABSTRACT

The study was launched to observe the status of *Ancylostoma duodenale* (*A. duodenale*) in the faecal samples of children residing in urban areas of Northern Lahore, Punjab from November 2006 to October 2008, showed an overall prevalence (%) of *A. duodenale*'s eggs (0.18 %). Direct microscopic technique was used to identify the eggs. Demographic data showed 10.50 % children were the habit of pica, 12.08 % nail biting, 21.58 % sucked thumb, 26.03 % and 6.11 % did not wash hands before meal and after defecation, 8.33 % walked bare footed and 15.36 % used junk food (Table 1; Figure 1). Highest prevalence was observed in Allama Iqbal Town (0.67 %) (0.67±0.33) followed by Gulberg (0.50 %) (0.50±0.29), Wapda Town (0.17 %) (0.17±0.17) and (0.17 %) (0.17±0.17) in Valancia, Samanabad (0.33 %) (0.33±0.24) and Cantt (0.33 %) (0.33±0.24) respectively. Statistically prevalence was significantly higher in autumn (0.50±0.29) (P<0.001), winter (0.08±0.08) (P<0.001) and lowest zero percent in spring. Month wise high prevalence was observed in October (0.67 %) (P<0.001) that gradually decreased in January zero percent and again zero percent in March respectively.

KEYWORDS: *Ancylostomiasis*, Children, Lahore