University of Baghdad

College Name	College of Education for Women
Department	Home Economics
Full Name as written in Passport	Nadia Hussen Mankhi
e-mail	Nadia_h_2010@yahoo.com
Career	◯ **Assistant Lecturer** ⬤**Lecturer** ◯**Assistant Professor** ◯ **Professor**
	⬤ Master ◯ PhD
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Abstract	**ABSTRACT** The circumstances that Iraq has gone through during the years of the imposed sanctions since August 1990 have deeply affected the health and nutrition conditions of children, especially those under five years of age. The present research has been conducted to estimate the nutritional status of nursery children due to an answer to the recommendations of the international organizations that have visited Iraq to assess the nutritional situation during the years of the blockade as they called for carry out nutritional research and surveys under such conditions. This would reveal any cases of malnutrition and would make it possible to improve nutritional situation. The practical part of the research was carried out during the period extending from January 5 to the beginning of April 2001. The research sample consisted of (120) children comprising both sexes, randomly selected from (12) nurseries situated in both parts of Baghdad (Karkh and Risafa). The sample was collected by a questionnaire from which included the following: general information about the child and its family, the medical history, the nutritional assessment concerning (an assessment of the consumed daily food in terms of quality and quantity and bad food habits), body measurements concerning (weight and height) and its divided in to three anthropometric indicators showing the nutritional status (height for age, weigh for age and weight for height). The results of the research have indicated the following: A low rate of the average weight and height of the research sample in comparison with normal measurement and references values, since the average weight and height of 24-35 month – old children (12.1) kg and (87.1) cm respectively. This was accompanied by a 6 month of growth retardation in comparison to the average of normal growth with significant statistical differences. On the other hand the average weight and

height of 36-47 month – old children (14.2) kg and (95.1) cm respectively. This was accompanied a 6 month of growth retardation with significant statistical differences.

A high rate of the outspread of malnutrition in comparison with the rates of its normal spread and those described in previous study conducted prior and at the beginning of the blockade. It found that the rate of the spread of stunting, underweight and wasting (18,3%, 12.5%, 8.3%) respectively.

A deviation value of the (Z- Score) of three anthropometric indicators from (Z–Score) references when they were represented in the shape of the reference curve, this considered an obvious indicators of spread of malnutrition.

A spread rate of malnutrition among 36-47 month – old children which is higher than that found among 24-35 month – old children. The spread rate of cases of moderate and severe stunting, underweight and wasting among 36-47 month – old children (26.6%, 14.9%, 8.3%) respectively. The spread rates, however among 24-35 month – old children were (9.9%, 9.9% , 8.3%) respectively.

A spread rate of malnutrition among females was higher than that found among males. The spread rate cases of moderate and severe stunting, underweight and wasting was (21.3%, 14.2%, 15.5%) respectively, where it was (15.5%, 10.8%, 4.6%) respectively.

An absence of statistically significant differences in the spread of malnutrition and the distribution of three anthropmetric indicators which showing the nutritional status among the children in private and state nurseries.

A relation was established between nutritional status and some factors that play an effective role in malnutrition, such as socioeconomic characteristic of family. This relation was in reverse proportion to the family's income and mother's education, but it was direct proportion with the number of children in the family and mother's occupation. The relation also proved statistically significant with cases of stunting and

underweight but was statistically insignificant with cases of wasting.

There is a relation between nutritional status and some infection such has intestinal parasite. This relation was statistically significant with cases of wasting and statistically insignificant with cases of stunting and underweight.

A low rate of the amount of daily consumed food in term of its carbohydrates, proteins and fats in comparison with recommended dietary allowances. There was also a statistically significant reverse relation between energy intake levels and cases of stunting, underweight and wasting.

. The general food style for the children of the research sample which is (strictly and unbalanced) due to the failure of obtaining the recommended number of daily meals for some of the Food Guide Pyramid. There was a number of bad food habits among the children of research sample was also observed and was found to effect the quantity and quality of the food consumed.