

School Canteen Policy

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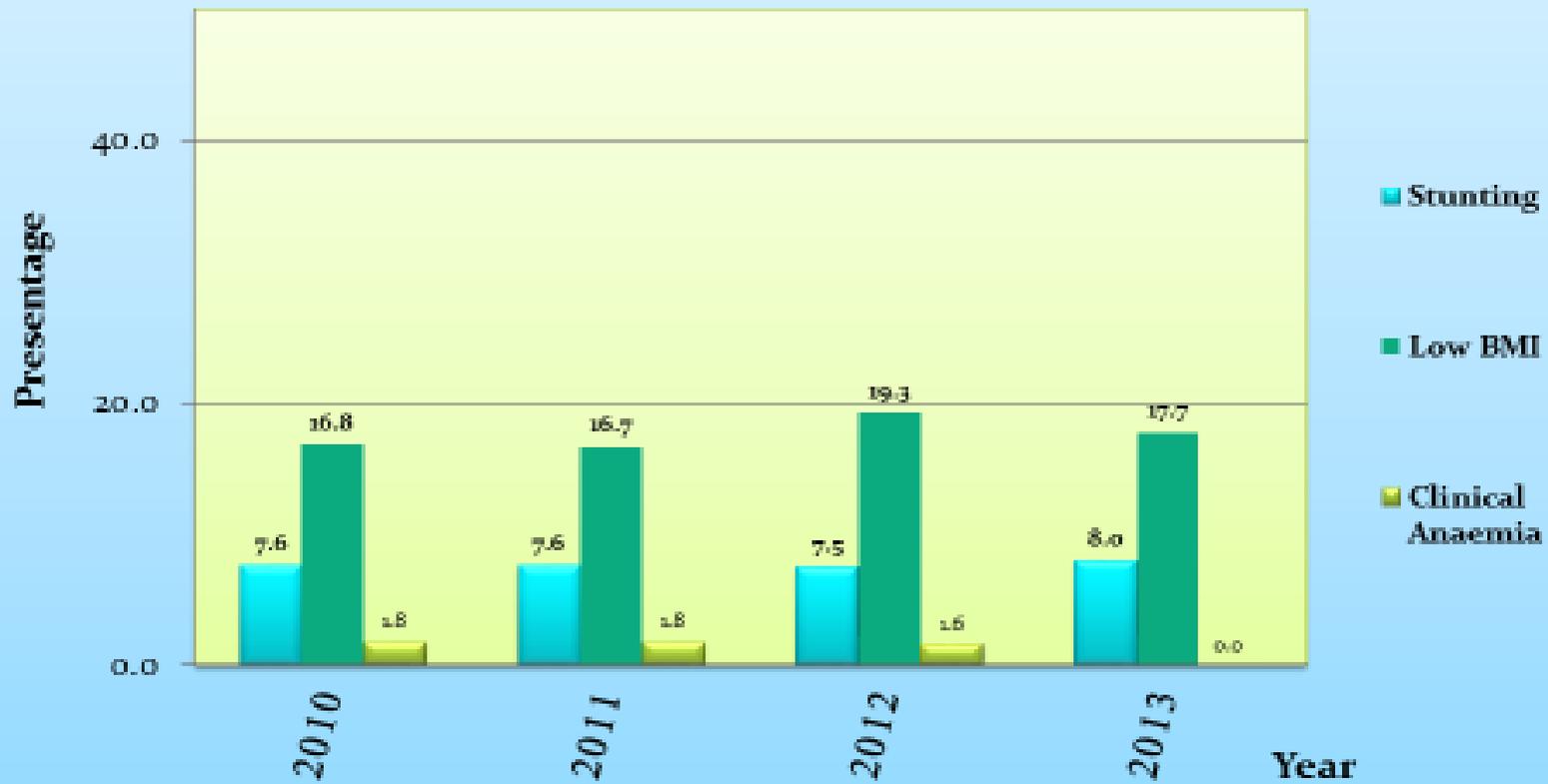
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Introduction

- About twenty five percent of the Srilankan population comprised of school children
- Nutritional status of the students has a significant influence over their educational performances.
- The school environment has a great potential to influence many life style choices of school children.
- That is why it is mandatory to focus on school canteen to improve their nutritional status.

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School Canteen Policy

- The broad aim of the School canteen Policy is to optimize the educational performance among school children by improving their nutritional status.
- Strategies of the canteen policy are;
 1. The Government will ensure the right of school children to have nutritious, culturally acceptable food available at a reasonable cost within the school premises.
 2. Ensure hygiene of the food provided.
 3. Facilitate school children to get their meals during the school hours.
 4. Develop the school canteen as a health –promoting center as an integral part of the health promoting school

5. Promote child friendly service provision at school canteens.
6. Allocate necessary funds to improve the facilities of school canteens.
7. Support & strengthen Human Resource development to improve the quality of services to a level acceptable to the consumer.
8. Build up a regular monitoring system with the participation of relevant officers in both health and education sector in all National, Provincial, District, Zonal & Divisional levels.
9. Take every opportunity to develop healthy dietary habits among school children by improving their knowledge, attitude and practices over diet.
10. Evaluation at national level to assess the achievement of the broad aims of the policy.

Implementation

The school canteen policy will be implemented through the Central and Provincial Ministries of Education.

Principal has to ensure canteen will;

1. Have healthy foods

(rice & vegetables, fruits, fish, egg, sandwich, milk, tea, fruit drinks, porridge)

2. Not to have food with high sugar, high salt, high fat food

3. Limit deep fried food

4. Not to have junk food

PHI and the officers of the Ministry of Education do the supervision and monitoring

Challenges for implementation

- No legal background for healthy food
- (food Act doesn't address this)
- Children prefer unhealthy food which are more tasty. When it is available in neighborhood they do not buy healthy food in canteen.
- Canteen have to pay 50cents/child/day to school.so in bigger schools they are compelled to make profit.
- Nationally civil societies are not concern about consequences of unhealthy food.