

Significance of Deworming

Why in news?

\n\n

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) conducts deworming drive twice a year.

\n\n

What is Deworming?

\n\n

\n

- Deworming is a process to kill worms commonly tape, round and hook worm, that infest bodies of children below 18 years of age.

\n

- As per the guidelines, children aged below two years are given 200 gm of Albendazole tablet, a drug to treat parasitic worm infestation, and school-going children are administered 400 mg tablets.

\n

- The Albendazole tablet paralyses the muscles of these worms, the worm loses its grip of intestinal tract and is flushed out of the human body.

\n

- A worm takes six months to mature and start sucking, therefore the exercise is carried out biannually.

\n

- Deworming has no serious side effects, but it can cause nausea and vomiting if a child has worms.

\n

- The medicine disrupts the worms which leads to uneasiness in the stomach.

\n

\n\n

Why is the significance of deworming?

\n\n

\n

- Parasitic worms and their larvae are generally found in contaminated food and water.
\n
- In slums children walk bare feet and they frequently contract worms.
\n
- The worm first enters the blood circulation system and its larvae land up in the larynx, from where it finally reaches the gastrointestinal tract.
\n
- The hook, round and tapeworm grow by sucking blood from its host in this case the human body.
\n
- Loss of blood leads to a drop in haemoglobin level and causes anaemia, thus deworming kills these worms and helps prevent anaemia.
\n
- The National Family Health Survey-3 data suggests anaemia is widely prevalent in all age groups.
\n
- Its prevalence is 56 per cent among adolescent girls (aged 15-19) and 70 per cent among children below five years.
\n

\n\n

What are the other initiatives of government in this regard?

\n\n

- \n
- Under the National Iron Plus Initiative Union Health Ministry is providing weekly dose of iron and folic acid tablets to children aged 1-18 years.
\n
- This is to prevent iron deficiency and chances of anaemia.
\n
- Various municipal schools in India conduct this drive by giving a weekly dose of 100 mg iron and 500 mg folic acid to adolescents (10-19 years), dosage varies for different age groups.
\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: Indian Express

\n



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering