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## **LIST OF APPREVIATION**

<b>ECF :</b>	Extracellular fluid.
<b>ICF</b>	Intracellular fluid.
<b>DIC</b>	Disseminated intravascular coagulation.
<b>ORS</b>	Oral rehydration solution.
<b>C/M</b>	Clinical manifestation.
<b>G.E.</b>	Gastroenteritis.
<b>MCHC</b>	Maternal and child health center.
<b>AAP</b>	American Academy of Pediatric.

## INTRODUCTION

Gastroenteritis was defined by *Cohen, (1991)* as the clinical syndrome of diarrhea and/or vomiting of acute onset, often accompanied by fever and constitutional disturbance which of infective origin and is not secondary to some primary disease process outside the alimentary tract.

It has been estimated by *Walker-Smith, (1998)* that, about 100 to 1000 Million episodes of gastroenteritis were occur in developing countries in children under 5 years of age, this may result in up to 5 Million deaths. He added that this high incidence result from the combined effect of contaminated water supplies, the preparation of bottle feeds under unhygienic condition and from malnutrition which frequently occurs in these children at the time of weaning meanwhile, Gastroenteritis are fortunately uncommon in the newborn, colostrum and breast milk confer some degree of protection against this infection so it is less common in breast- fed than formula-fed babies (*Johnston, 1994*).

### **Magnitude of the problem :**

In Egypt, gastroenteritis is the leading cause of death (for about half deaths) of children under the age of five years. In Benha the hospitalized children with gastroenteritis under the age of five years were about 6163 child accompanied with mild dehydration, 559 child accompanied with moderate dehydration and 642 child with severe dehydration. (*M.O.H, 1996 and M.O.H 2000*).

Acute gastroenteritis is one of the most common infections disease syndromes of human, ranking second to acute respiratory tract infections as world wide cause of morbidity. It has been estimated that up to 15% of

children in developing nation die of diarrhea and vomiting before 3 years of age (*Cleary and Pickering, 1992 and Offit, 1996*).

So families need guidelines for prevention of gastroenteritis. However the availability of teaching program lays the foundation for better care for their children and accordingly would save more children from death as a result of poor knowledge and practice. Also the prevention and management of gastroenteritis need the participation of mother's as she is the person who cares for the child, feed him, make the diagnosis of diarrhea, recognize the need to seek medical care and giving him oral re hydration solution if needed that help in reducing the morbidity and mortality of infant and young children from dehydration and malnutrition.