

A study to assess the knowledge of dental hygiene among mothers with school going children in a selected rural area at Puducherry

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Abstract: The oral cavity plays a vital role in the life of human beings through functions like mastication, aesthetics, phonetics, communication emotional expressions. Globally, poor oral health among the rural population is due to the high possibility of tooth loss, dental caries experience and the prevalence rates of periodontal disease, oral precancer and cancer. **Objectives:** The objectives of the study are to assess the knowledge of dental hygiene among mothers with school-going children and to associate the knowledge of dental hygiene among mothers with school-going children with selected demographic variables. **Methodology:** A descriptive research design is used for the study. The target population for the study comprises all the mothers with school-going children residing in selected rural areas in Puducherry. The sample size consists of 50 mothers with school-going children residing in a selected rural area at Puducherry, who meet the criteria. **Result:** The overall knowledge score of mothers was adequate, 38% of mothers had adequate knowledge, 42% of mothers had moderate knowledge and 20% of mothers had inadequate knowledge **Conclusion:** To promote the well-being and to safe the health of all children from their childhood the mothers should have the knowledge of dental hygiene. Hence the present study has taken to assess the knowledge of dental hygiene among the mothers of school-going children at selected rural areas, Puducherry

Keywords: dental hygiene, school going children, knowledge, mothers.

1. INTRODUCTION:

“Oral health overall health” was a theme by WHO to promote the importance of oral health globally. Oral health is a major part of overall health. Like other body functions, the oral cavity plays an important role in the life of human beings through functions like mastication, aesthetics, phonetics, communication emotional expressions. Globally, poor oral health among the rural population is due to the high possibility of tooth loss, dental caries experience and the prevalence rates of periodontal disease, oral precancer and cancer.¹ A study on dental hygiene reveals that mothers who have the education status of graduate are more aware of the importance of oral health in children, treatment of dental caries, and brushing techniques than mothers with education status of school education. Hence, it is essential that the government and healthcare providers impart oral health knowledge to mothers, as they are the role models for their children.² Another study concludes that mothers' knowledge regarding oral hygiene and practice was found to have a significant impact on the oral hygiene of their 12-year-old children. Although oral hygiene of children was found to be of good status irrespective of their mothers' oral hygiene status which was fair.³

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

- To assess the knowledge of dental hygiene among mothers with school-going children
- To associate the knowledge of dental hygiene among mothers with school-going children with selected demographic variables.

3. MATERIALS AND METHOD:

Research approach:

The research approach is the procedure selected by the researcher to collect, analyse and interpret data. The research approach adopted for the present study is a quantitative approach.

Research Design:

A descriptive research design is used to assess the knowledge of dental hygiene among mothers of school going children

Setting of the study:

The study was conducted in selected rural areas in Puducherry

Population:

The target population for the study comprises all the mothers with school-going children residing in selected rural areas in Puducherry.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE:

Sample and sample size:

The sample size consists of 50 mothers with school-going children residing in a selected rural area at Puducherry, who meet the criteria.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:

Non-probability convenient sampling technique was selected for the present study.

Description of the tool:

The objectives of the study were to assess and compare the knowledge of dental hygiene among mothers of school children with their demographic data. The questionnaire is divided into two sections namely,

- **Section a:** demographic data
- **Section b:** structured knowledge questionnaires

Section a: demographic data - It consists of socio-demographic data including Age, Education, Occupation, Family Income, Type of Family and Media of learning

Section b: structured knowledge questionnaires - It consists of knowledge items, 30 objective types of multiple-choice questions with 4 distracters. All questions had only 1 correct answer. Each correct response was awarded a single score, according to the predetermined key. And zero score was awarded for wrong responses and omissions

4. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

The collected data was obtained, organized, analysed and interpreted using descriptive statistics. Analysed and interpreted data are based on the objectives of the study.

Table 1: Distribution of selected demographic variables of mothers

Demographic variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age (years)		
(a) 20 - 25	15	30
(b) 25 - 30	25	50
(c) 30 - 35	10	20
Total	50	100
Religion		
(a) Hindu	50	100
Educational status		
(a) High school	10	20
(b) Higher secondary	18	36

(c) Degree	22	44
Total	50	100
Occupation		
(a) Housewife	25	50
(b) Private	15	30
(c) Government	10	20
Total	50	100
Income		
(a) Rs. 1000 - 5000	13	26
(b) Rs. 5000 - 10,000	25	50
(c) Rs. 10,000 – 20,000	12	24
Total	50	100
Media of learning		
(a) Television	22	44
(b) Newspaper	10	20
(c) Health education through PHC	18	36
Total	50	100
Type of family		
(a) Nuclear	34	68
(b) Joint	16	32
Total	50	100
No. of children		
(a) One children	16	32
(b) Two children	26	52
(c) Three children	8	16
Total	50	100

Table 2: knowledge level of the mother regarding dental hygiene of school children

Level of knowledge	Number of samples	Percentage
Inadequate	10	20%
Moderate	21	42%
Adequate	19	38%

Table 3: associate the knowledge score of mothers with school going children regarding dental hygiene with educational status and occupation as demographic variables

Demographic variables	No. of sample	Score	Knowledge Score		
			Mean	SD	Mean Percentage
Family Income					
Rs. 1000 - 5000	13	89	2.76	8.01	92.2%
Rs. 5000 – 10,000	25	472	15.73	6.96	74.9%
Rs. 10,000 – 20,000	12	121	4.03	7.60	67.2%
Media of learning					
Television	22	259	8.63	10.30	86.3%
Newspaper	10	120	4.00	7.42	66.6%
Health education through PHC	18	297	9.9	8.89	70.7%

5. FINDINGS:

The major finding of the study

- 50 % of the mothers were in the age group of 25 – 30 years.
- 44% of mothers were in the education group of degree.
- 25% of mothers were housewives
- 22% of mothers have the media of learning through television
- 18% of mothers have the media of learning from Primary health centre
- The overall knowledge score of mothers was adequate, 38% of mothers had adequate knowledge, 42% of mothers had moderate knowledge and 20% of mothers had inadequate knowledge.

6. CONCLUSION:

Overall mothers with school-going children had adequate knowledge of the definition and moderately adequate knowledge of the management of dental problems and it is observed that mothers had inadequate knowledge of the incidence.

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