

**Ministry of Higher Education
& Scientific Research
Baghdad University
College of Dentistry**



Oral Health Status among Kindergarten Children in Relation to Socioeconomic Status in Al-Najaf Governorate-Iraq

A Thesis

Submitted to the Council of the College of Dentistry at the
University of Baghdad, in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in
Preventive Dentistry

By

Suha Mehdi Hamid Shubber

B.D.S.

Supervised By

Prof. Dr. Wesal Ali Al-Obaidi

B.D.S. M.Sc.

2014 A.D.

1436 A.H.

Abstract

Background:

Dental caries and periodontal disease are the most common oral diseases, affect human beings throughout the world. The socioeconomic status considers as a predisposing factor of oral health status, it has been recognized that children's oral health is related to their families' socioeconomic status.

Aims of study:

This study was conducted to assess the prevalence and severity of dental caries and gingivitis as well as dental plaque among kindergarten children according to age and gender and their relation to socioeconomic factors.

Materials and methods:

The total sample composed of 550 children aged (4-5) years selected randomly from different kindergartens in Al-Najaf governorate. Plaque index of Silness and Loe (1964) was used for plaque assessment; gingival index of Loe (1967) was followed for recording gingival health condition. Diagnosis and recording of dental caries were assessed according to the criteria described by WHO (1987).

Results:

The prevalence of dental caries was (84.7%). The dmfs/ds values were (10.05±0.40, 9.73±0.39) respectively for the total sample. Females had higher dmfs/ds as compared to males with statistically no significant differences. The age of 5 years children had higher dmfs/ds as compared to 4 years with statistically highly significant. The prevalence of gingivitis was (65.3%). The mean values of plaque, gingival indices were (0.42±0.02, 0.35±0.01) respectively. Males had a significantly higher plaque index as compared to females. The effect of

socioeconomic status showed that no significant differences were found in (dmfs, PII and GI) regarding parent's education. Differences were not significant in the variables regarding the employment and age of the mother, with negative correlation with the employment and positive correlation with the mother age. Dental caries and gingivitis were higher in the children whose lost their father. There were no significant differences in the variables regarding the size of the family and the serial no. of the child; regarding housing the differences were significant between number of rooms and variables, but positive weak correlation with dental caries and negative weak correlation with PII and GI. There were no significant differences in the variables regarding house ownership and structure, dmfs showed no significant differences between centre and township areas while (PII,GI) showed significant differences between them.

Conclusions:

Kindergartens children in Al-Najaf were found to have a high prevalence of dental caries and gingivitis. Socioeconomic status was found to have little effect in the severity of these diseases, there is a need to increase the knowledge and attitude towards oral health, as well as provides public and school preventive programs among those children.