



Introduction

Oral health education in primary schools is mostly provided by the dentist or oral hygienist (Haleem A et al. 2012). Given the severe lack of dental professionals in Ethiopia, this strategy is unlikely to be cost-effective, efficient, or sustainable. If properly informed, teachers could play a key role in creating and executing preventive oral health programs because they spend the majority of their time at school with the students and have understanding of their dispositions and context. They could help in the early diagnosis of oral diseases and teach kids the necessary skills for maintaining oral health. (Hanganu C et al. 2004) (Dedeke A et al. 2013). Teachers who are informed about oral health can potentially make a positive difference in their students' well-being. For a school oral health promotion program to be successful, teachers would need to fully participate. With the right training, teachers could proficiently deliver oral health messages. This study will evaluate the knowledge, attitude and practice of public primary school teachers in Kirkos sub city, Addis Ababa, on key oral health issues.

Objective

To assess the oral health knowledge, attitude and practice among public primary school teachers in Kirkos sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Method

An institutional based survey was conducted among 187 teachers in three primary public schools in Kirkos sub city administration, 148 teachers responded. The questionnaire was prepared in English and translated to the local language Amharic, it included four categories: demographic data; knowledge; attitude, and; a practice question. Prior to collection of data ethical clearance and permission were obtained from Africa Medical College.

Fig 1,2 & 3 show a small sample of the results by descriptive statistics.

Result

Fifty one participants (39.9%) did not know dental health is as important as general health. 84(56.8%) of subjects did not know chewing or smoking of tobacco can cause oral cancer. Despite the fact that 147 subjects (99.3%) knew tooth brushing prevents dental disease, 37 (25%) do not brush their teeth, and of those who do 69(46.6%) brush for a duration of up to one minute. Furthermore 106 (71%) never visited the dentist while only 19 (12.7%) subjects cleaned their tongue, 4(2.7%) used mouth wash, and 8(5.4%) used dental floss.

Fig 1 Do you think dental health is as important as general health?

Answer	Frequency	Percent %
yes	89	60.1
No	59	39.9
Total	148	100

Fig 2 Tobacco use according to educational background chewing/smoking tobacco a risk for cancer.

Chewing or smoking tobacco cause oral cancer

Educational background	Yes	No	Total
High school completed	0	1	1
Certificate	7	16	23
Diploma	35	44	79
Bachelor degree	22	23	45
Total	64	84	148

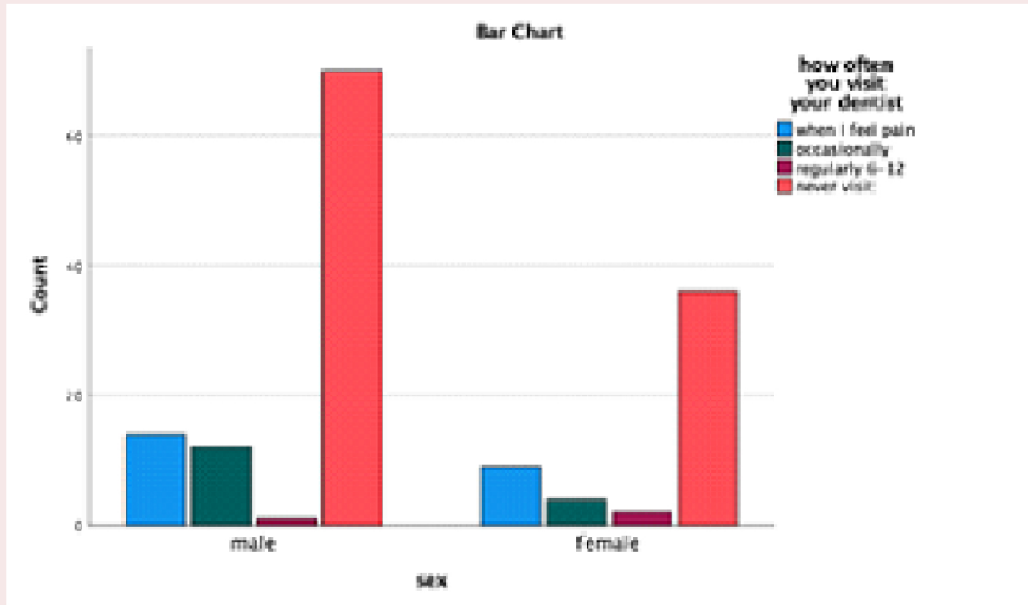


Fig 3 Frequency of dental visits

Conclusion

The knowledge, attitude, and practice in regard to oral health among teachers. Could be improved by creative, interesting and relevant seminar or workshop training. An increase in their capacity for oral health knowledge, attitude and practice would not only benefit the teachers themselves, but could also benefit the primary school children.

Reference

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- Dedeke A, Osuh M, Lawal F, Ibiyemi O, Bankole O, Taiwo J, et al. Effectiveness of an oral health care training workshop for school teachers: a pilot study. Annals of Ibadan Postgraduate Medicine. 2013;11(1):18-21.

