



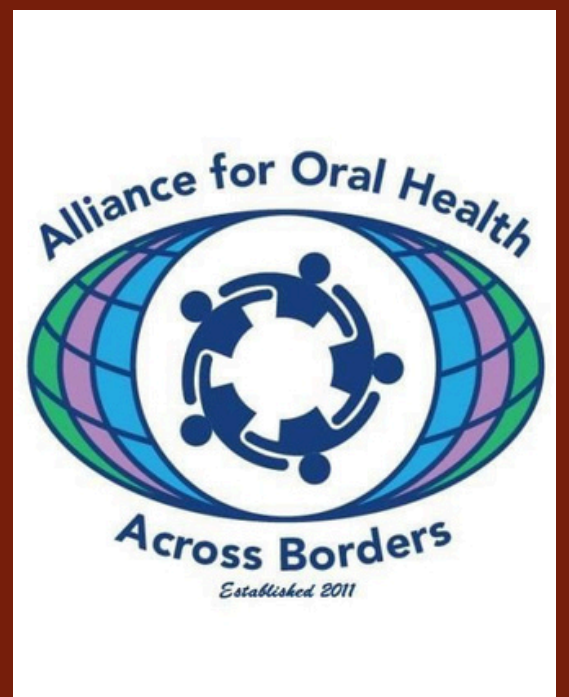
ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TO DENTAL CARIES PREVENTION AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ITUKU VILLAGE, ENUGU.

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INTRODUCTION

Dental caries represents a globally known preventable non-communicable disease which is considered a major public-health problem affecting all age groups, especially children. [1]. Oral health promotion plays an essential part in the health of the general public.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), in European countries tooth decay among six-year-old children varies from 20% to 90% [8]. Approximately, a quarter of five- to six-year-old children experience tooth decay, and the percentage rises above 90% in some low- and middle-income countries, indicating dental caries is a permanent public-health problem [9]. WHO oral-health goals have been formulated for the year 2020 as part of the WHO Health 21 policy for Europe [10] suggesting that “by 2020, a percentage of at least “80%” of children at the age six should be caries-free and, on average, no more than 1.5 Decayed/-Missing/-Filled Teeth should be observed for children of 12 years of age”.

Since education and oral -health prevention programs for all family members, children and parents, at all socio-economic levels are the only means to avoid dental caries [8], dentists and oral healthcare providers prioritize oral-health promotion [8]. To achieve such goals, Oral Health Promotion Programs (OHPPs) for children are globally implemented in diverse communities and have been shown to be a useful intervention to control dental caries. However, economic evaluation of their cost-effectiveness to determine the programs value for money remains unclear.

This review seeks to determine the knowledge and attitude of secondary children towards Caries as well as their knowledge and attitude towards Caries prevention. It is hypothesized that exposure to oral health promotion programs reduce dental caries among children, and health care costs.

RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) To assess the knowledge of Secondary School children on Dental Caries.
- 2) To assess the knowledge of secondary school children on methods of dental Caries prevention.
- 3) To assess the attitude of secondary school children on Dental Caries prevention

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1) Do secondary school students know about Dental Caries?
- 2) Are secondary school students able to prevent Caries?
- 3) Are secondary Sch students willing to visit the Dentist?
- 4) What is the general Oral Health Awareness of secondary School student to Caries?

SCOPE / TARGET POPULATION

50-100 Secondary school students within the Enugu demographic ages 10 - 18years .

METHODOLOGY

Data collection is by a Quantitative cross sectional survey using a Self Administered Questionnaire.

The Questionnaire consists of 28 Questions and is Divided into 3 sections:

Section 1: Demographic Information

Section 2,i : General Knowledge on Caries Prevention

Section 2,ii: Knowledge of Proper Dental Care

Section 3 : Attitudes towards Dental Caries Prevention and Sequelae

ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES

- 1) Cost of transportation to the schools.
- 2) Cost of printing the Questionnaires.

PROPOSED INTERVENTION

- 1) To carry out oral health awareness within the schools.
- 2) To teach the secondary school students practical Caries prevention methods such as good brushing and flossing technique.

CONCLUSION

The project is still in progress and conclusive results are yet to be obtained.

However , it is my hypothesis that there may be poor knowledge on Dental Caries, its sequelae and Prevention practices amongst secondary school students in The given Demographic.

But with good Oral Health awareness, Knowledge of Dental Caries and its Consequences, as well as proper prevention practices, will become more familiar to the secondary school students, effectively reducing the Incidence of Dental Caries in that Population.

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REFERENCES



RESULTS: IN VIEW