

**“RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH EARLY
CHILDHOOD CARIES AMONG NURSERY
CHILDREN OF HUBLI-DHARWAD AND
IMMIGRANT TIBETAN POPULATION: A
COMPARATIVE STUDY”**

by

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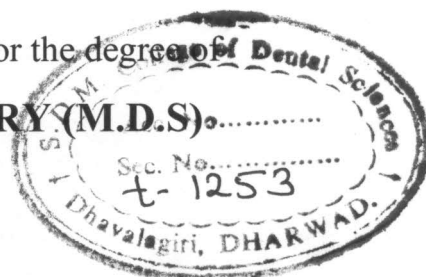
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ABSTRACT

Title--"Risk factors associated with early childhood caries among nursery children of Hubli-Dharwad and immigrant Tibetan population: a comparative study".

Aim-To compare the risk factors of Early Childhood Caries between Hubli-Dharwad children and Tibetan children from Mundagod, a Tibetan settlement near Hubli.

Method-A total of 500 children were taken for the study. They were designated as group 1-children from Hubli-Dharwad and group 2-children from Mundagod. 250 children from each group respectively below the age of 71 months were taken. Using sterile mouth mirror and gloves the carious lesion were examined. Then the parents/caretakers of the selected children were asked to fill a structured questionnaire. All the details regarding the questionnaire were explained by examiners.

Results-Total of 500 children were examined. ECC prevalence was very high 41.2% and 33.6% of children whose parents were graduates had high ECC rates except in group 2, 66.4% of children had high ECC prevalence whose mothers had studied till Tenth std. Children belonging to middle class families 67.6% and 66.4% respectively had high ECC levels. 98.8% and 96% of children who were breast fed at night, in-between snacking habit(34% and 42.8%), no rinsing after meals(98% and 96%) and brushing once daily(88.7% and 89.6%). In the children who had ECC, 54 % and 75.2% of children had visited a dentist.

Conclusion-There is a significantly high rate of ECC in both Hubli-Dharwad children and Tibetan children from Mundagod. This could be as a result of improper feeding and brushing practices, increased intake of sugary, sticky food, in between meal snacking and lack of knowledge regarding ECC.

ABSTRACT

Appropriate measures should be taken to tackle this increasing trend of ECC. With the help of newspapers, television and the modern day apps awareness has to be created regarding ECC and its preventive measures.

Key words-ECC, Tibetan children, Ethnicity, snacking habit, brushing habit.