

ABSTRACT

Education in Paediatric Dentistry

678 | 'Brush Right-Smile Bright' a school toothbrushing programme in rural India

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Background: Mouth is regarded as the mirror of the body; good oral health is required for maintaining good general health. Oral hygiene is maintained by brushing and flossing to prevent dental diseases, it is a lifelong habit which ensures the removal of plaque, which is the primary causative factor of dental caries. These habits are inculcated through parents, family and school. However, due to lack of education; correct techniques of toothbrushing is rarely followed by children. Our aim was to determine the effectiveness of school dental education program in improving toothbrushing knowledge and practices among school children.

Methods: Study included school children aged 7-12 years. A consent was obtained from the school administration and parents. Pre-test questionnaires were distributed to assess the existing knowledge. Toothbrushing program was conducted via live demonstration and video presentation. After a period of one-month questionnaires were redistributed to check for improvement in knowledge.

Results: Out of 70 total participants, the response rate was 98.3%. Post-education 95% of them knew the importance of brushing; 80% were self-driven and started brushing their teeth promptly. 80% of the children started using toothbrushes with soft bristles. And 65% of the children switched to using fluoridated toothpastes.

Conclusions: School dental education program is the best way to target the inaccessible population and we observed that educating and motivating these children showed an improvement in their perception about the importance of maintaining good oral habits.

1146 | Assessment of a virtual learning object used in training for the diagnosis and the treatment plan of molar incisor hypomineralization

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Background: To develop, apply and evaluate a Virtual Learning Object (VLO) to teach undergraduate dental students and pediatric dentists to diagnose and manage incisor molar hypo mineralization (MIH).

Method: This controlled educational intervention included 170 undergraduate students and 50 pediatric dentists. Participants were assigned to the intervention group (VLOG) and control (CG); groups composed of undergraduate students who were trained by the VLO and synchronous virtual classes respectively; and a group of pediatric dentists (PDG) trained with the VLO. The VLO was validated by 10 professors of pediatric dentistry with extensive experience who had been teaching for more than 5 years. The CG participated in a talk about MIH that lasted one hour and ten minutes through a synchronous class via the web, while the VLOG was instructed to navigate the VLO for the same amount of time. The PDG did the training with the VLO with the same characteristics as the VLOG. The data were analyzed with Fisher's Exact test ($\alpha = 0.05$). The reliability of the VLO questionnaire (4 aspects) was analyzed with the Cronbach's Alpha test.

Results: The reliability of the instrument was variable, with values between 0.123 and 0.743. The 4 aspects of the OVA were assessed as very adequate by both groups, no statistical differences were found in the assessment of the two groups.

Conclusion: The VLO is presented as an alternative for current education, which can contribute to improving professional skills.

all participants showed large deficits. Better diagnostic than management skills were observed in both groups. Only 1.3% dental and 16.3% medical students felt adequately prepared to deal with CAN. 6.5% dental and 7.4% medical students trusted their ability to comply with legally safe reporting. Desire of more CAN-related training expressed 97.4% dental and 85.2% medical students. Preferred teaching methods were seminars, expert discussions and SkillsLab-sessions.

Conclusions: Dental and medical students were inadequately prepared to recognize and deal with CAN. There is a need to develop mandatory competence-based interdisciplinary teaching modules.

942 | Baby steps to a bright future

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Background: Pediatric dentistry was introduced as a separate specialty in India only in the year 1979. It is a specialty which needs to grow much more in urban as well as rural areas of developing countries like India. Lack of education, low income, inaccessibility to oral health services are challenges for the rural populations.

Literature Review: This narrative literature review, eventually zeroed down to 28 abstracts that were included. For the literature search and screening, PubMed and Google Scholar databases were used.

The Pediatric Dentistry Treatment model focuses on pediatric practitioners, society, parents and children to work towards the awareness and improvement of oral health conditions in children as stated by Gomez et al in 2014.

The prevalence of dental caries in a survey conducted by the Dental Council of India in 2004 was stated as 51.9% in 5-year-old children. Miglani in 2020 focused on preventive strategies such as training social workers and teachers to diagnose caries at its initial stages, teaching good dietary and brushing habits, and in promoting the importance of milk teeth. Topics such as genetic counselling should be emphasized in the clinical training of undergraduate students. Babu et al in 2012 stated that the concept of Dental Home must be introduced at the tender age of one for children deemed at risk. Fujita in 2018 said that reduced masticatory function in growing children via eating junk food while watching television results in changes in growth of the mandible and a decrease in bone mass. Hence, the traditional Indian balanced diet, followed less frequently nowadays, is imperative in maintenance of health.

Conclusion: Amendments thus need to be made to improve the dental health of the children, as they are the future of our nation.

522 | Assessment of knowledge, attitude and practices of health care workers towards identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect in India: A cross-sectional study

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Background: Child abuse and neglect have a strong impact on the victims throughout their lives and is a significant global problem. Dentists have the unique opportunity to address this problem however reporting, such cases have become a sensitive issue due to the uncertainty of the diagnosis. Pediatrician have an important role in identifying and reporting CAN as parents bring their children to health care centers for growth screening and vaccination. Thus, current study was aimed to investigate knowledge, attitude and practices of dentists and pediatricians towards CAN.

Methods: This was a cross sectional study employing dentists and pediatricians. A specially designed, structured, close ended, self-administered questionnaire related to KAP regarding identification and reporting of CAN was given to the participants. General information of the participants was collected like name, age and educational qualification. The data were entered into excel worksheet and analysis was done by using statistical software. Descriptive statistics was used to summarize the results.

Results: Results of the study showed that mean knowledge score was poor to average. The participants had a favorable attitude towards dealing with CAN. Whereas they followed low to moderate practices concerning CAN.

Conclusions: Community health workers had average knowledge regarding child abuse and neglect but they had favorable attitude. There may be fear in reporting CAN which may be because of lack of clear legal knowledge and guidelines regarding child abuse and neglect in India.