

DENTAL CARIES STATUS OF RURAL PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

BY

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ABSTRACT

Today's children are citizens of tomorrow. Oral health is an integral part of general health .

According to WHO, there is an increase in dental caries trends in urban areas but some studies have shown that trends of dental caries are not only alarming in urban areas but also in rural areas too.

The present study was conducted to know the dental caries prevalence of rural preschool children. The study was conducted on preschool children in Haliyal, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka. A sample of 295 preschool children aged among 3 and 5 years were examined . Information was collected about the prevalence of dental caries, Rampant caries and oral hygiene practices .The results of the study showed that the prevalence of dental caries was 71.86% and the caries experience was 2.9, 2.33 and 4.60 for 3, 4 and 5 years respectively with an average dft of 3.59. Prevalence of Rampant caries was 9.83%. Prevalence of dental caries among finger users and tooth brush users was 78.04 % and 66% respectively.

Finally it is concluded from the results that the prevalence of dental caries in rural pre-school children was high and caries experience was also high .