



SUMMARY

Oral health means more than just an attractive smile. Poor oral health and untreated oral diseases and conditions can have a significant impact on quality of life. In many cases, the condition of the mouth mirrors the condition of the body as a whole. Proper oral health plays a vital role in maintaining the overall health and wellness of children. Left untreated pain and infection caused by tooth decay can lead to problems in eating, speaking and learning.

The aim of the present study were to assess dental health among school age children, identify the predisposing factors of dental problems among school age children.

This study was conducted at dental clinics that affiliated to Benha University Hospital & School of Health in Benha city for unhealthy children while the healthy children they were met at their schools and were chosen from Omar bin El-Khataab, confirmed assessment from school dentist.

A-purposive Sample of study involved all (100) the school age children (6-12 years) regardless their gender, having dental problems and attending the above mentioned setting over 6 month period and (30) children with no dental problems.

Tools of the study were designed by the researcher after reviewing related studies and literature and included a structured interviewing questionnaire, Likert type rating scale, dental assessment sheet. Data collected through a period of five months where the time needed to fill each questionnaire sheet consumed 30 minutes.



The main findings of this study can be summarized as the following:

- The present study showed that, more than one third (46%) & (43.3%) of unhealthy and healthy children were in the age group of 8:<12 and 12:≤16 years respectively.
- The present study showed that, more than half of unhealthy children (56%) and healthy children (60%) were females and the rest of them were males.
- The present study showed that, more than half (55%) of unhealthy children and (60%) of healthy were having 200:<300pounds/month & 300:<400 pounds/month respectively.
- The present study showed that, the great majority (95%) & (100%) of unhealthy and healthy children were living at rural area respectively.
- The present study showed that, the great majority (95%) and more than half (56.6%) of unhealthy and healthy children were having deciduous teeth respectively.
- The present study showed that, the great majority (99%) of unhealthy children were having dental caries.
- The present study showed that, (64%) & (86.6%) of unhealthy and healthy children were having exclusive breast feed respectively. As regard pacifier use it was found that, more than three quarters (77%) of unhealthy children use pacifier compared with more than three quarters (73.3%) of healthy children.
- The present study showed that, the great majority (100%) & (70%) of unhealthy and healthy children were excessive in their consumption of carbohydrates respectively.



- The present study showed that, more than half of unhealthy children were having bad habits namely thumb sucking & biting nails. While healthy children didn't have any of such problems respectively.
- The present study showed that, all family members of unhealthy children were sometimes brushing teeth. While all family members of healthy children were brushing teeth most of time respectively.
- The present study showed that, the great majority (100%) & (73.3%) of unhealthy and healthy children didn't periodically visiting the dentist respectively.
- The present study showed that, the great majority (95%) & (100%) of unhealthy and healthy children were extracted their teeth. As regard use of mouth wash it was found that, 69% & 56.6% of unhealthy and healthy children used hot water with salt respectively. As regard use of traditional methods of pain relief it was found that, (75%) & (63.3%) of unhealthy and healthy children used clove oil respectively.
- There was a statistical significant relation between all socio demographic characteristics and children's def (decayed, extracted, filled).
- There was a statistical significant relation between all socio demographic characteristics of children except residence and their total knowledge about predisposing of dental problems. While there is statistical a significant relation between all socio-demographic characteristics of children except gender and their total knowledge about predisposing of dental problems.

In the light of the results of the present study it can be concluded that; dental caries was the most common dental problem of the studied children and the level of socioeconomic status and nutrition were the main predisposing factors of such problems. The rate of dental caries was found higher among girls children than male children.



In the light of finding of the present study the following recommendation are suggested, health education programs about healthy diet and practices of adequate oral hygiene should be highlighted in schools (through integration into the school curriculum and services) and adopting national comprehensive programme for prevention of oral and dental diseases in children. Emphasize the importance of preventive oral health measures for all age groups of children in order to maintain dental health.
