

KNOWLEDGE OF PARENTS ON DELETERIOUS ORAL HABITS AMONG
CHILDREN ATTENDING ST. PATRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL THIKA

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION:

The study was on knowledge of parents on deleterious oral habits on children attending St. Patrick primary school, Thika. The prevalence of oral habits in high school girls and primary school students have been reported to be 87.9 and 30%, respectively in Kenya and other regions globally. Past research have found 34.1% of children with an oral habit in the country. Since searching the Pub Med database revealed no review articles associated with oral habits from year 2000 (Nowak and Warren, 2000) up to now, the aim of this present study was to review determine the most common oral habits among children and the effect of these habits on permanent dentition as well as the knowledge of parents on these habits and its effects.

OBJECTIVES:

The study was guided by objectives and research questions to determine the gap and hypothesis. The objectives included; establishing deleterious oral habits among children in. St. Patrick Primary school, Thika; To determine knowledge of parents on causes of oral habits in children; To determine knowledge of parents on preventive and control measures on bad oral habits; To establish the frequency of oral habits among the children St. Patrick Primary school, Thika. An extensive literature review was done to study the trend documented in the past related study and research and further identify the gap as at target population.

METHODOLOGY:

A cross section research study design was deployed to study the trend of children with deleterious problems and knowledge of oral habits of parents of these children and their effects. The study was carried out at St. Patrick primary school in Thika town in Kiambu county. Data collected from the patients was analyzed and presented using the bar graphs, pie charts and frequency showing the trends and issue discussion raised in the study objectives.

RESULTS

The findings were that 19.95% children had adverse oral habits. The most prevalent oral habit was Nail biting (44.11%) followed by tongue thrusting (33.65%) and the least prevalent was bruxism (0.95%). Another interesting habit noticed was that of collar biting. 77.8% students were unaware of the potential hazards that the adverse oral habit could pose on one's well being. Prevalence of adverse general health practices ranged from 0.3 to 45%, with 16.23% children unaware of the importance of basic body cleanliness.

ADH

CONCLUSION:

The study however in conclusion observed that there is a need to conduct more such surveys to serve the purpose of educating the common masses and to create more awareness towards a healthy lifestyle and the basic medical amenities available on oral health.