

RESEARCH PROJECT

INVESTIGATION ON THE PREVALENCE OF MALOCCLUSIONS AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN ZIWANI AREA, KIAMBU COUNTY.

BY: JAMES MUREITHI MWANGI

BSDT/000208/312/17031

RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DENTAL TECHNOLOGY.

Mount Kenya University

Thika, Kenya

2014

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Dental malocclusion is an abnormal relationship of the upper and lower dental arches and poor relationship and alignment of teeth. Orthodontic treatment refers all processes undertaken to prevent, intercept and correct these deviations. Dental malocclusions are present in all societies but its prevalence varies. While not as prevalent as dental caries, dental malocclusions are endemic and widespread throughout the world (Graber, 1988).

Dental malocclusion is an abnormal relationship of the upper and lower dental arches and poor relationship and alignment of teeth.

Objective: The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence of malocclusions and attitude towards malocclusion among primary school children aged between 6 – 13 years in Ziwani area, Kiambu County.

Methodology: This was a descriptive study design carried out in General Kago primary school in Thika and targets 800 pupils. A random sample of 176 boys and 224 girls was investigated.

According to the study, out of 400 participants, 269(67.25%) were found to have different kinds of malocclusions.

Results: The study showed that 92 % felt that malocclusions have negative effects while 8 % felt does not.

Conclusion(s): The respondents' age according to the findings those with 6 years (13.75%) were the most affected with the least being those with 8 years (11%).

Recommendations It was recommended that awareness should be introduced to the pupils and the community by relevant health officers. In addition, the county government should

equip the available dental facilities with personnel, materials and equipment for orthodontics treatment. Training of dental officers should be enhanced to increase their population hence devolved services closer to the local communities.