

Thesis Title    The Association between Mothers'Dental Health  
Behaviors and Dental Caries Status in Elementary  
Schoolchildren   Sawee   Chumporn

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this research was to study the association between mothers'dental health behaviors and dental caries status in elementary schoolchildren. The sample ,selected by two-stage sampling, consisted of 363 elementary schoolchildren aged 7-12 years with their mothers and teachers in Sawee district, Chumporn province.

The researcher developed the questionnaires as a tool of collecting the data. There were two sets of questionnaires. The first set of questionnaires was designed to measure knowledge, attitude and practice of mothers'dental health.The second set of questionnaires measured the teachers'dental health roles for students.

Dental caries was diagnosed according to the criteria applied from the WHO dental caries indexs (1987). The main results were as follows

The mean dft for the primary teeth caries experiences were 4.65, 3.51, 2.94, 2.11, 1.87 and 1.19 for ages 7-12 years respectively and the caries prevalence were 94.44%, 83.33%, 86.54%, 82.46%, 60.05% and 61.90% for the respective ages. In the permanent teeth the mean of DMFT were 0.28, 0.55, 0.71, 1.25, 0.89 and 1.04 for ages 7-12 years respectively and the caries prevalence were 16.67%, 28.77%, 45.45%, 62.30%, 46.15% and 54.55% for the respective ages.

The majority of mothers (63.09%) had a moderate level of dental health behaviors scores. With regard to socioeconomic status, there were significant difference in dental's health behaviors scores between education levels, occupations and family incomes ( $p < 0.001$ )

The severity of caries in the primary, permanent and the whole teeth of children were significant correlation with their mothers' dental health behaviors ( $p = 0.031, 0.083$  and  $0.077$  respectively)

Interestingly, The severity of caries in the primary, permanent and the whole teeth were found to be negatively correlated with their mothers' dental health behaviors scores ( $r = -0.109, -0.074$  and  $-0.076$  respectively)