

TEACHERS' KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE IN CONDUCTING ORAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES IN KINDERGARTENS

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ABSTRACT

Teachers play an important role in promoting good oral health practices among preschool children as they are one of the most influential people in a child's life. This study aims to assess preschool teachers' oral health knowledge and confidence in conducting oral health promotion activities in kindergartens. A cross-sectional study was conducted among 111 preschool teachers (Government = 60, Private = 51) from selected kindergartens. Stratified random cluster sampling was used to select the participants. Their knowledge and confidence in conducting oral health activities were assessed using self-administered questionnaires. Data were analysed using SPSS Statistics version 23.0. Preschool teachers in Kuantan had moderate oral health knowledge (Mean score 62.6%, SD 19.2%) and high confidence in conducting oral health-related activities (Mean score 77.7%, SD 13.7%) at the kindergartens. Significant relationships were reported between teachers' oral health knowledge and age ($p=0.008$), and type of preschool ($p<0.01$). There was also a significant relationship between a teacher's confidence and type of preschool ($p<0.01$). However, there was no significant relationship reported between confidence and teacher's age ($p=0.057$). Preschool teachers in Kuantan have high oral health knowledge and confidence in conducting oral health activities. Younger and private teachers were less confident than older and government teachers.

Keywords: Teachers, Preschool Children, Kindergartens, Oral health