



Oral health status, behaviors and oral health related quality of life among pupils in Border Patrol Police Schools, Thailand

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Abstract

Objectives: To investigate the oral health status, oral health behaviors and impact of oral health on quality of life among pupils from Border Patrol Police Schools (BPPS) who participated in the Young Smile Ambassador Project (YSAP).

Methods: All pupils who attended the YSAP at the primary phase were assessed for oral health status including dental caries, oral hygiene status, dental fluorosis, and dental trauma. The face-to-face interviews were conducted to obtain the oral health-related behaviors and impact of oral health on daily performance among pupils. Data were analysed by descriptive analysis.

Results: A total of 369 pupils participated. The age ranged from 7 to 16 years old and most pupils were 11-12 years old (50.9%). Caries prevalence was 64.4% with mean DMFT of 2.17 among 11-12-year-old pupils. Oral hygiene was moderate among all age groups. Dental fluorosis was 11.6%, with mostly very mild level. Pupils aged 11-12 years brushed their teeth everyday in the morning at 75.3%, after lunch at school everyday at 51.0%, and brushing before bedtime everyday at 44.4%. More than 80% of pupils reported having cariogenic snacks and drinks somedays during the past week. Most pupils had oral examination (93.5%) and dental treatment (82.9%), and mostly received dental services at schools (68.0%). Among all pupils, 70.2% reported experiencing tooth pain, while 40.4% ever missed their school due to toothache. Chewing problem, sleeping disturbance, esthetic concern, and unsatisfied with oral health were reported at 33.3%, 32.0%, 40.4%, and 17.6%, respectively.

Conclusion: Dental caries among these pupils were alarming high compared to the national survey and affected their quality of life. Future programs focusing on oral health prevention and promotion are very essential in order to promote healthy oral health and improve quality of life among BPPS pupils.

Keywords: pupils, oral health, quality of life, caries, border patrol police school

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