



Knowledge and Belief of Community Health Workers on Children's Oral Health in Kerala, India- A Cross- Sectional Study

Anju James

Mentors: João Guilherme Medeiros; Sonia Groisman; Chandrashekar Janakiram.



INTRODUCTION:

- Early Childhood Caries affects 46.9% of children in India [1]
- Community Health Workers (CHWs) are key workers in supporting young children and their families.
- The aim of the study was to evaluate the knowledge and belief of a Community Health Workers in kerala

METHOD:

- This cross-sectional study included 168 Community Health Workers selected through convenience sampling.
- Participants were eligible if they had at least six months of work experience.
- Ethical approval was obtained from the Institutional Ethical Committee (ECASM-AIMS-2025-003), and informed consent was taken from all participants.
- Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics

RESULTS:

All participants were female. 45.8% of the study population was aged between 41 and 50 years, and 55.4% had more than 5 years of work experience

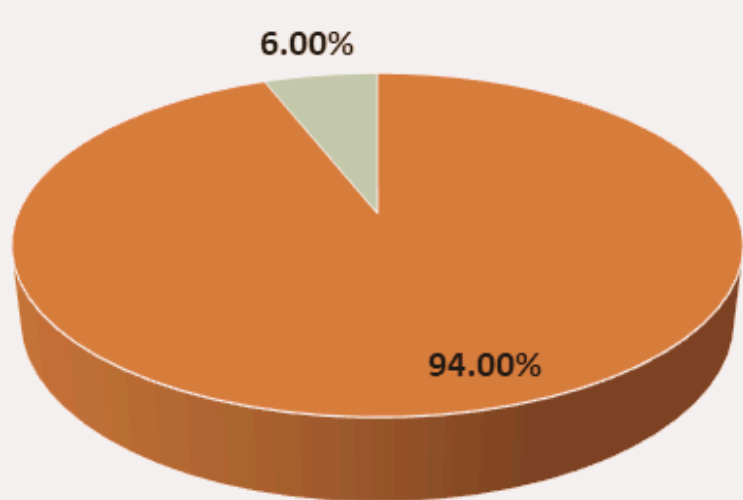


Figure 1. Have you received any training on oral health for young children?

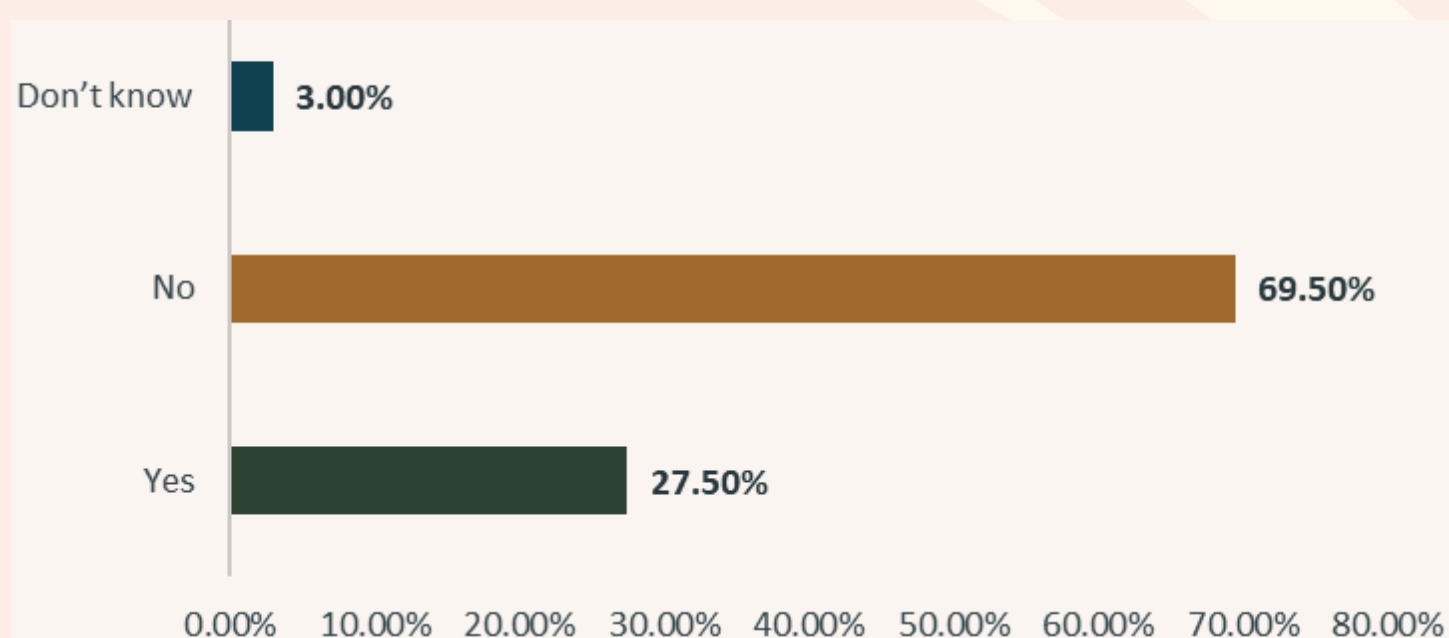


Figure 2. Does fluoroide prevents tooth decay when applied topically?

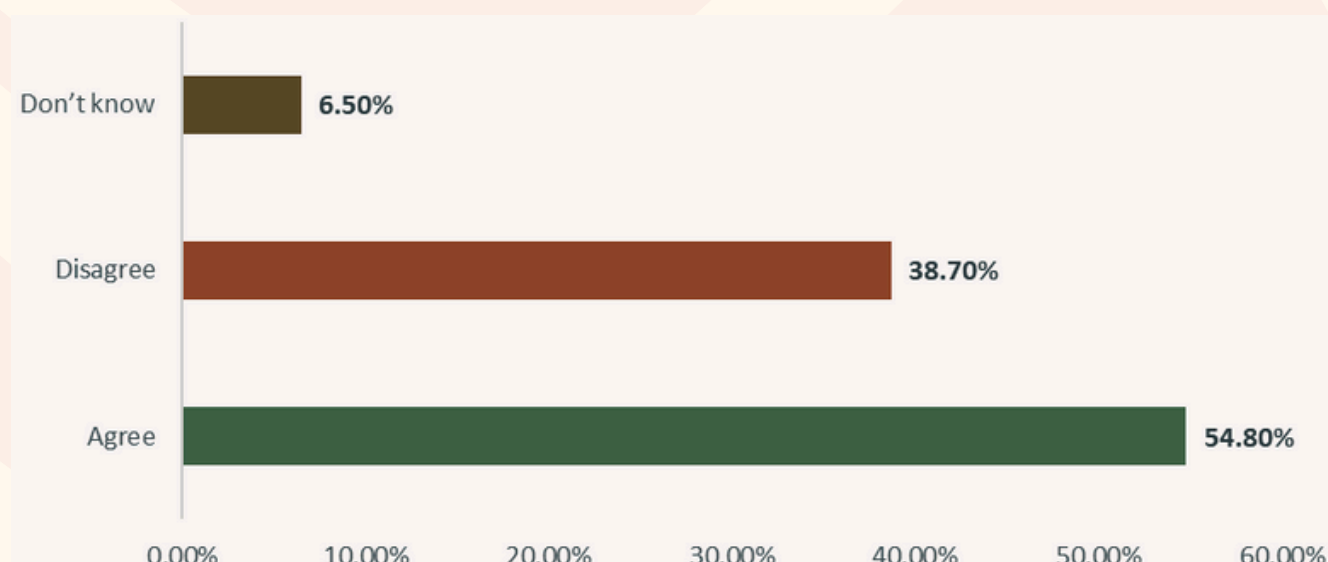


Figure 3. Do you believe preventing dental decay in baby tooth is important?

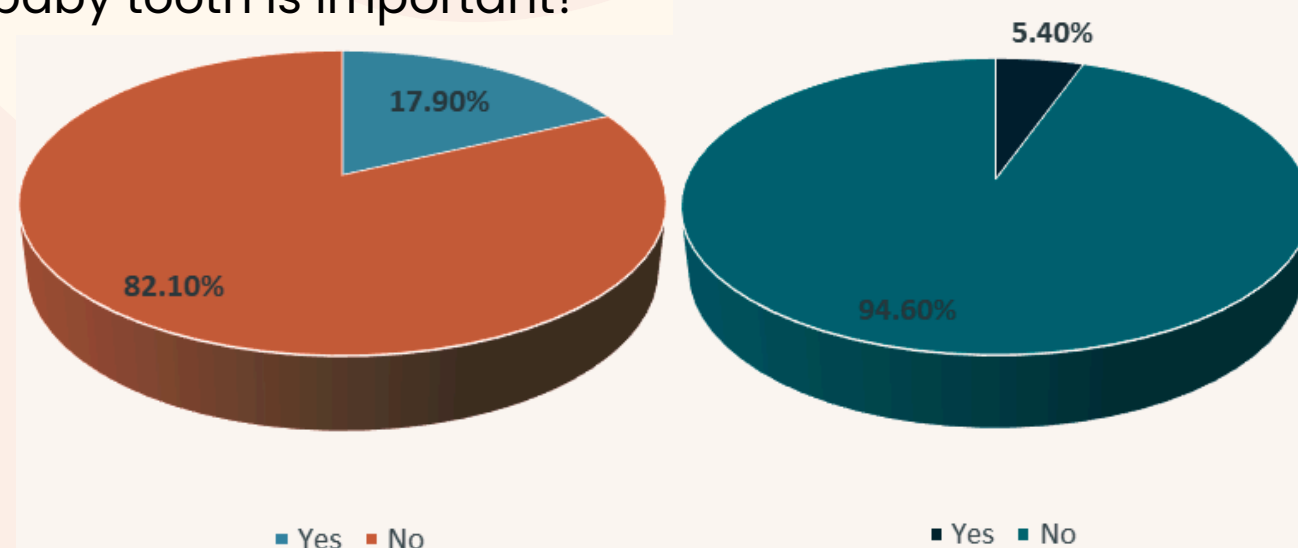


Figure 4. Do you discuss the role of sugary foods with parents/ caregivers? Figure 5. Do you feel confident to talk to parents / caregivers about childrens oral health?



Data Collection

CONCLUSION:

- The majority of Community Health Workers have not received formal training in the prevention of oral health caries.
- This lack of training may have contributed to common misconceptions and reduced their confidence in delivering proper oral health education
- To strengthen their role and understanding, we conducted lectures on an Oral Health Prevention Protocol.
- The goal is to reinforce key concepts and provide them with practical tools and confidence that could positively impact their communities in preventing early childhood caries in the future

Acknowledgment: Dr. Deborah Weisfuse



Scan to Explore!
Phase II: Draft Implementation Plan for the
Toothbrushing Programme
Review & Share Your Valuable Feedback



Just One Scan Away!
Questionnaire & Institutional
Ethical Committee Certificate