

ABSTRACT

PURPOSE; Measure the impact of school based oral health education on knowledge attitude and practices of primary caregivers of children going at Holly Special school, Ndola

METHOD;Descriptive cross sectional design was used and questionnaires were adminstered to 50 participants randomly for a pre and post survey.Inclusion criteria includes all caregivers whoretuned the questionnaires and eclusion criteria all caregivers who were absent or did not receive the video /audio recordingnng during implementation stage.

RESULTS;Data was collected from 50 correspondents of which 29 were male and 21 were females with a majority of the participants having attended college and university.

INTRODUCTION

Oral health in special need patients is one of the most deserted aspects of care. The degree of unmet dental needs amongst this populace is highly compromised when compared to the general population.

It has been proposed that educating people involved in care of special need patients is beneficial particularly with regard to oral health. Hence, it is important that these caregivers have the knowledge and are aware of the preventive practices for maintaining optimal oral health.

METHODOLOGY

A validated self-administered structured questionnaire was used among 50 caregivers. The first part of questionnaire collected demographic information (age, gender, experience, literacy). The other part of the questionnaire was related to the knowledge and attitude of caregivers regarding importance of oral health including oral hygiene practices, cause of tooth decay ,significance of fluoride, common oral problems and need for oral health education.

,A tailored oral health education was developed. The program incorporated interactive sessions, visual aids, and practical demonstrations to address the specific needs and learning styles of caregivers of children with disabilities in relation to oral health aswell as video recordings were shared.



RESULTS

- There was a 34% increase in knowledge regarding oral health of the caregivers
- There was an 8% shift in positive attitudes towards oral health of caregivers of children with special needs. Bivariate analysis showed no association between the level of knowledge and gender (0.080), level of education (0.083) and the special needs type (0.005).

Descriptive caregivers Knowledge

1. Is oral health related to general health?

Pre survey	frequency
yes	(43) 86%
No	(7) 14%

post survey	
Yes	(48) 96%
No	(2) 4%

2. how often should a toothbrush be changed

	Pre survey	post survey
after 1-2 months	(17) 34%	(10) 20%
after3-5 months	(18) 36%	(32) 64%
every 6 months	(15) 30%	(8) 8%

Caregivers' Attitude

1. Do you think children with special needs are more likely to have oral health problems?

	Pre survey	post survey
yes	(41) 82%	(45) 90%
No	(9) 18%	(5) 10%

PRE-RESEARCH AND POST-RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES



Discussion

The study demonstrates the effectiveness of educational interventions in improving understanding, perspectives, and behaviors related to oral health among special children. These programs are essential for shaping attitudes and promoting community-wide adoption of positive oral health practices, however it was noted that no association was found between the different demographics an knowlede of the caregivers.



Questionnaire



References

Conclusion

Oral health Educationprograms yielded a positive results. The results emphasized the need for caregivers to be well informed about oral health practices to ensure the best possible care for their children.