



MOTHER'S ATTITUDE REGARDING CHILD'S EARLY DENTAL VISIT AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH DEF-T INDEX OF PRE-SCHOOLERS IN SCHOOLS OF SOUTH PADANG SUBDISTRICT, PADANG



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INTRODUCTION

Dental caries (tooth decay) is the most dental and oral health problems that often occur in children. Dental caries in children can hinder child's growth and development. It can also lose child's productive day at school, so that it will reduce the level of their intelligence which in a long term will impact on the society's quality of life. The prevention of children's dental caries can be done by parents, especially mothers, and one of the important precautions is doing early dental visit. The purpose of this study was to find out the association between mother's attitude regarding child's early dental visit and def-t index of children.

MATERIAL & METHODS

Analytic observational study using cross-sectional method was conducted in 65 mother-child (3 to 6-year-olds) pairs from six Early Childhood Development Place in South Padang Subdistrict, Padang. Dental caries were measured through clinical examination using def-t index and a self-administered questionnaire completed by mothers. Statistical analysis was obtained through descriptive

Table 1. Dental Caries Index Distribution of Pre-schoolers

	Median (Minimum-Maximum)
Dental caries index (def-t)	6,00 (0,00 – 18,00)

Table 2. Mother's Attitude Distribution

Attitude	n	Percentage
Negative	27	41,5 %
Positive	38	58,5 %
Total	65	100 %

Table 3. Association between Mother's Attitude with DEF-T index

	n	Mean ± S.D	Average Difference (CI95%)	P Value
def-t in negative group	27	4,89 ± 4,80	-1,137 (-3,284 – 1,009)	0,294
def-t in positive group	38	6,03 ± 3,84		

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The results showed that the mean def-t index of children was 6.00 and more than half mothers had positive attitude (58.5%) regarding early dental visit. There was no significant association between mother's attitude regarding child's early dental visit and def-t index of children ($p > 0.05$). The mean def-t index of children from mothers who had positive attitude are higher to mothers who had negative attitude.

Based on the result, dental examination performed in 65 children from six Early Childhood Development Place in South Padang Subdistrict, Padang, obtained def-t index was 6.00 and categorized as high in level of caries severity according to WHO criteria. It may be caused by factor of community health center's activity which not yet too focused towards dental health of children under five including counseling about early dental visit.

In this study, we also found that mothers with positive attitude had children with a higher def-t index compared with mothers with negative attitude. It may be caused by the positive attitude of mothers were not accompanied by practice in performing early dental visit.

CONCLUSION

Dental caries in children will have many impacts in children's life. Mothers, who have an important role in children's early life, need to take an action to prevent caries in children by doing early dental visit. Not only is mother's positive attitude towards early dental visit needed, but practice also should be done to avoid caries in children.

Keywords: early dental visit, caries index (def-t), mother, attitude, preschool children