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**Health Education And Knowledge Of Dental And Oral Maintenance In Grade Ii (Two) Elementary School Children In Bantaeng District, South Sulawesi**Vivi Adriana Suardi^{1*}, Nurhaedah², Endam Apulina³, Herman⁴, Farida Latif⁵¹Nursing Study Program, STIKes Gunung Sari Makassar, Indonesia²Dental Nursing Study Program, STIKes Amanah Makassar, Indonesia³Nursing Study Program, Universitas Putra Abadi Langkat, Indonesia⁴Nursing Profession Study Program, STIKes Yapika Makassar, Indonesia⁵Nursing Profession Study Program, Institut Teknologi Dan Kesehatan Avicenna, Indonesia**Abstract**

Oral and dental health maintenance behavior should be carried out from an early age, the most appropriate time to instill values to form positive behavior is school age. Elementary school age is the ideal time to train a child's motor skills, including brushing teeth. In addition, school age has shown sensitivity to learning according to the child's curiosity. The purpose of the study was to determine the level of knowledge of Oral and Dental Health Maintenance of grade II (two) Elementary School children in Bantaeng Regency, South Sulawesi, to prevent dental and oral diseases, increase endurance, and improve oral function to increase appetite. Maintaining dental and oral hygiene at school age is one way to improve health at an early age. This research method is descriptive by providing a description of knowledge about dental health maintenance actions. The results of the study showed that students with a level of knowledge showed that almost all students in grade II (two) of Elementary Schools in Bantaeng Regency, South Sulawesi had good knowledge (92%). The conclusion obtained shows that there is a significant relationship between maternal knowledge and the provision of exclusive breastfeeding in the working area of the Takalar Regency Health Center.

Keywords: Provision, Exclusive Breastfeeding, Knowledge and Attitude, Mother, Work Area, Community Health Center, Takalar District

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1. Introduction

Dental and oral health education is the addition of a person's knowledge and abilities through learning techniques or instructions with the aim of changing or influencing human behavior to increase awareness of the value of dental and oral health so that they consciously want to change into healthy behavior (Pudentiana Rr & Subandini, 2019).

A person's knowledge of an object contains two aspects, namely positive and negative aspects. These two aspects will determine a person's attitude, the more positive aspects and objects are known, the more positive attitudes will arise towards certain objects. According to the WHO (World Health Organization) theory quoted by Notoatmodjo (2007), one form of health object can be described by knowledge obtained from one's own experience. Dental and oral health are part of body health that cannot be separated from one another because dental and oral health will affect overall body health.

Disorders related to dental and oral health are problems experienced by most countries in the world. The biggest problem faced by the Indonesian population as well as in other developing countries in the field of dental and oral health is dental caries tissue disease (caries dentis) in addition to gum disease. Caries is a disease of hard tooth tissue, namely enamel, dentin and cementum caused by the activity of microorganisms in a carbohydrate. As a result, bacterial invasion and pulp death occur and the spread of periapical infection can cause pain (Ministry of Health, 2010).

The problem of cavities is still widely complained about by both children and adults and cannot be left until it is severe because it will affect the quality of life where they will feel pain, discomfort, disability, acute and chronic infections, sleep and eating disorders and have a high risk of being hospitalized, which causes high medical costs and reduced learning time at school. (Hamidah et al., 2021).

According to (Sariningsih, 2012), Ways to prevent cavities or the process of tooth demineralization are: When eating and drinking sweet things, afterwards rinse with water or brush your teeth; Use fluoride toothpaste; Use topical fluoride applied (worn) on the teeth; Chew cheese or chew gum containing xylitol or sorbitol, after foods containing carbohydrates; Use Casein Phospopeptides- Amorphous Calcium Phosphate (CPP-ACP) for remineralization of early caries lesions.





2. Research Methods

This type of research is descriptive in nature by providing an overview of knowledge about dental health maintenance actions. This research was conducted in grade II (two) Elementary School children in Bantaeng Regency, South Sulawesi with the sample in this study being 37 grade II students which was carried out on January 15, 2024. Sampling is a sampling technique.

Sampling This study was conducted by purposive sampling where researchers took samples according to the researcher's needs. There are 2 types of Data Collection Techniques, namely primary data is data obtained by conducting direct examinations that are planned to be carried out by providing questionnaires and secondary data is data obtained from certain agencies which in this study were obtained from the School in the form of name, age and others. For Research Instruments with questionnaire sheets to measure the level of knowledge of dental and oral health maintenance.

3. Results and Discussion

a. Results

Based on the results of research on the Description of Knowledge of Dental and Oral Health Maintenance of Grade II (two) Elementary School children in Bantaeng Regency, South Sulawesi. The distribution of data presented in the data table is as follows.

Table 1
Distribution by Gender

No	Gender	Amount	Percentage
	Man	17	46
	Woman	20	54
	Total	37	100

Based on table 1, it shows that as many as 20 respondents (54%) were female, while the fewest respondents, 17 respondents (46%) were male.

Table 2
Distribution of Respondents Based on
Dental and Oral Health Maintenance Knowledge





No	Gender	Amount	Percentage
	Good	34	92
	Enough	2	5
	Not enough	1	3
	Total	37	100

Based on table 2 above, it can be seen that students with a level of knowledge show that almost all students in grade II (two) of Elementary Schools in Bantaeng Regency, South Sulawesi have good knowledge (92%).

b. Discussion

Based on research that has been conducted in grade II (two) Elementary School children in Bantaeng Regency, South Sulawesi, regarding the description of knowledge regarding dental and oral health maintenance of grade II children, it shows that the students are dominated by female students.

The results of the study based on knowledge of dental and oral health maintenance obtained knowledge of 25 respondents (67.5%) with sufficient knowledge category. The data shows that most students in grade II (two) Elementary School in Bantaeng Regency, South Sulawesi have sufficient knowledge about dental and oral health maintenance. This is due to the lack of awareness of students about the importance of maintaining dental and oral health, because they do not understand what impacts and effects arise if they do not maintain dental and oral health.

Therefore, the role of parents is very important in efforts to provide and teach children about dental and oral health and also for elementary school institutions in improving dental health education programs in schools that are more applicable, especially for second grade children, so that children's knowledge about dental health and dental care can increase.

This study is in line with the study conducted by Henny Fatimah (2016) on students of Widoyo Elementary School, which showed that out of 42 respondents, the largest number was 30 respondents (71.3%) with sufficient criteria. This study is in line with the study conducted by Mauren et al. (2015) on Catholic Elementary School students, which showed that out of 65 respondents, the largest number was 39





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respondents (60%) with moderate criteria. However, it is necessary to increase awareness and actions to maintain students' dental and oral hygiene so that their own health can improve.

Knowledge about dental health greatly determines the status of a person's dental and oral health in the future, but knowledge alone is not enough, it needs to be followed by the right attitude and action. Similarly, research conducted by Jacky et al. (2015) showed that there was no strong relationship between the level of knowledge of dental health maintenance and the severity of caries. There are external factors as predisposing and inhibiting factors that are indirectly related to the occurrence of dental caries, including age, gender, geographic location, economic level, and attitudes and behaviors towards dental health maintenance.

From the research results, it was also found that in children whose dental health maintenance patterns are good, most of them have low caries status, in children whose dental health maintenance patterns are bad, most of them have high caries status, and in children whose maintenance patterns are moderate, most of them have moderate caries status. This shows that Dental health maintenance affects caries status, where the worse a person's dental health maintenance, the higher their caries status and vice versa.

4. Conclusion

Based on the results of the study on the description of knowledge of dental and oral health maintenance in grade II (two) Elementary School children in Bantaeng Regency, South Sulawesi, it can be concluded that the level of knowledge of dental and oral health maintenance shows that the knowledge of grade II (two) Elementary School children in Bantaeng Regency, South Sulawesi is in the good category. We hope that our children can be motivated so that they can improve the quality of dental and oral health in Elementary School students.

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