

Knowledge, attitude, behavior, and perceived barriers towards oral health care among parents of children with disabilities in Qatar

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Abstract

Qatar takes great pride in actively promoting equal opportunities for people with disabilities. The number of individuals with disabilities in Qatar makes up less than 0.50% of the total population. Government of Qatar mandates rights to education, medical and social care, rehabilitation, transportation and employment to persons with disabilities in unison with Qatar National Vision 2030. The launch of the 'Doha Declaration' at the closing ceremony of the Doha International Conference on Disability and Development (DICDD), December 7-8, 2019, underscores Qatar's commitment to promoting policies that will ensure persons with disabilities are provided with opportunities for involvement, engagement and contribution in their communities. Doha declaration would be an international reference point for world governments to integrate the rights of persons with disabilities into their national development plans. In pursuance to improve the oral health of the children with disabilities an oral health program was conducted in 7 Government and 1 private school in Qatar.

It was integrated into ongoing Asnani School Oral Health Program. A team of Dental Hygienists and Dental assistants visited the schools and provided dental screening services with preventive fluoride varnish application to all the consenting students. Special oral health education sessions were conducted to deliver lectures to these students tailored to their type of disability. This program also marked the launch of oral health education messages in braille and sign language for the first time in Qatar. Acknowledging the role of families in the wellbeing of persons with disabilities, we conducted a research to assess the knowledge, attitude, behavior and perceived barriers of parents of the students with disabilities. Based on the results of this research, a comprehensive oral health education program was planned for the parents to empower them to acquire accurate knowledge and educated them about means to overcome the challenges they face. Caries prevalence was 64% among the students examined. Many of the parents were unaware of the presence of fluoride in the tooth paste and its role in preventing

caries. The most commonly perceived barrier was lack of awareness about the availability of Periodontists /special needs dentist to treat their children and the places where they could receive the dental care.



Biography:

Najat Alyafei is the Head of Oral Public Health Services of the Primary Healthcare Corporation, a deputy member of the National Oral Health Committee (NOHC) and the lead of School Oral Health Program tagged Asnani (My Teeth) in Qatar. Coming soon implementing National Adult Screening Project. In addition, she is the first and only Qatari senior hygienist worked for Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) 1992-2016. She has a Bachelor of Health Care Science degree in Dental Hygiene from King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and Master of Science degree in Education from Old Dominion University, Virginia, USA. Currently, she is a PhD candidate at Health Care science (implementation program), Bangor University, United Kingdom.

Speaker Publications:

1. Najat A (2018) Oral Health Behavior of Qatari People Regarding Oral Cleaning Techniques. Dentistry 8(7):2-4.
2. Cheema S, Maisonneuve P, Al-Thani M H, Al-Thani A A M, Abraham A, Al-Mannai G A: Oral health behavior and factors associated with poor oral status in Qatar: results from a national health survey. Journal of Public Health Dentistry 2017; 77(4): 308-316.
3. Al-Darwish M S (2016) Oral health knowledge, behavior and practices among school children in Qatar. Dental Research Journal 13: 342-53.

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