

# PARENTS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DENTAL AND ORAL HEALTH WITH DEF-T INDEX OF BANYU URIP SURABAYA KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

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**ABSTRACT.** Dental caries is a prevalent condition that impacts a significant number of children. In Indonesia, the prevalence of dental caries among children aged 5–6 years is reported to be 88.8%. The average def-t value, which represents the number of decayed, missing, or filled teeth, is 8.1. This suggests that, on average, each kid in this age group has nine teeth affected by caries. The issue addressed in this research pertains to the relatively low proportion of students who are free from dental caries at Banyu Urip Surabaya Kindergarten. To investigate the correlation between parents knowledge about oral health and def-t index of kindergarten students at Banyu Urip Surabaya. This research employs an analytic research design utilizing a cross-sectional approach methodology. The research's population consisted of parents of kindergarten students at Banyu Urip Surabaya, with a research sample size of 54 parents. The sampling technique employed in this research was simple random sampling. The instruments utilized for data collection consisted of questionnaire sheets and dental examination sheets. The statistical test employed in this research was the Spearman rank correlation analysis technique. This research suggests the level of parents knowledge is found to be lower, while the def-t index of students is found to be moderate, as indicated by the sig. (2-tailed) value of  $0,038 < \alpha 0,05$ . These results suggest a significant correlation between parents knowledge of oral health with def-t index of kindergarten students at Banyu Urip Surabaya.

**Keywords:** Knowledge, parents, kindergarten students, dental caries, def-t index

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The term oral health encompasses the overall well-being of the soft and hard tissues, as well as all other elements within the mouth cavity (Kemenkes RI, 2015). Maintaining dental health is a crucial aspect of safeguarding one's entire physical well-being, particularly in the context of managing oral health conditions (Damanik, 2020) (Sari, G. D et al., 2021). The preschool group refers to a cohort of children between the ages of three and six who participate in educational programs specifically designed for preschool-aged individuals (Abdat, M., & Ramayana, I., 2020). Children who exclusively participate in kindergarten might also be classified as preschool-aged individuals (Noviandari & Mursidi, 2019) (Fadjeri, I et al., 2022).

Based on the characteristic of health survey data, it was determined that the incidence rate of dental caries among children between the ages of 3 and 5 years was 81.7% . The occurrence of dental caries varies with age, with rates of 60% at 3 years, 85% at 4 years, and 86.4% at 5 years. These findings suggest that preschool-aged children are more susceptible to dental caries (Shintia & Zainur, 2019). According to

RISKESDAS conducted in 2018, the prevalence of dental caries in children aged 5-6 years in Indonesia was found to be 88.8%. The def-t index, which measures the severity of dental caries, was recorded at 8.1. This indicates that, on average, each kid in this age group had 9 caries teeth (Zendrato, 2021) (Susi, S et al., 2020).

Dental caries also known as tooth decay frequently manifests in children's populations. The primary etiological factors contributing to the development of dental caries encompass the host, bacteria, environment, and temporal aspects (Murniwati, S et al., 2018). The occurrence of dental caries can be prevented by ensuring that these four components do not interact (Putri, A. D et al., 2016). Frequent consumption of cariogenic foods, sedentary behavior, poor tooth brushing techniques, inadequate oral hygiene practices, and neglecting regular oral health assessments have the potential to initiate the development of dental caries (Kaban et al., 2022).

Dental caries which encompasses primary and permanent teeth, has a significant impact on individuals throughout many age groups, including children and adults. The age range of 4-6 years is considered a crucial period due to the occurrence of the transition from primary dentition to permanent dentition (Dewi, 2020). The impact of dental caries, particularly when assessed by a high def-t score, has been seen to have a substantial influence on the overall well-being of individuals afflicted (Aulia Dwi, M, 2019). This includes difficulties in mastication as well as disruptions in sleep patterns and diminished concentration resulting from dental cavity pain (Nurwati & Setijanto, 2021).

Preschool-aged children are particularly susceptible to oral and dental ailments as a result of their bad habits and behaviors (Setijanto, R. D et al., 2020). This research article examines the habits and actions that have a negative impact on oral health (Nurwati & Setijanto, 2021). The predominant cause of dental caries in contemporary times may be attributed to parental deficiency in comprehending the significance of a nutritious diet and suitable dental care alternatives, particularly in the context of preschool-aged children (Andriyani et al., 2021). The acquisition of parental knowledge plays a pivotal role in the cultivation of oral health-promoting habits, as well as the avoidance of practices that are detrimental to their children's dental well-being (Hasanah et al., 2019) (Ngatemi, T. P, 2020).

Based on preliminary assessment from a direct assessment conducted in March 2023 at Banyu Urip Surabaya Kindergarten, it was observed that among a sample of 10 students, 8 individuals (80%) had dental caries, while the remaining 2 students (20%) were determined to be free of caries. This claim conflicts with the World Health Organization's (WHO) objective to provide dental health services, which is to have 50% of children between the ages of 5 and 6 free from dental cavities. This research is to investigate the correlation between parents knowledge about oral health and def-t index of kindergarten students at Banyu Urip Surabaya.

## **2 RESEARCH METHODS**

This research employs a cross-sectional analytic design, with the research site located at Banyu Urip Surabaya Kindergarten, specifically located at Jl. Banyu Urip Kidul I No. 1C, Kel. Banyu Urip, Kec. Sawahan, Surabaya City. The data collection period extends from March 2023 to April 2023. The overall population consisted of 62 parents of students, while the research sample comprised 54 parents of students. The sampling technique employed was simple random sampling. The instruments utilized for data

collection encompassed knowledge questionnaire sheets and dental examination sheets. The statistical test employed for data analysis was the Spearman rank correlation statistic. This research suggests the level of knowledge among parents is found to be lower, while the def-t index of students is found to be moderate, with a statistically sig. (2-tailed) value of  $0.038 < \alpha = 0.05$ . Ethical approval for this research was obtained from Health Polytechnic of Surabaya Ethics Committee, with assigned approval number: No.EA/1597/KEPK-Poltekkes\_Sby/V/2023.

### 3 RESULTS

The data obtained from the research that was conducted is subsequently presented in tabular format below :

**Table 1.** Frequency distribution based on Gender, Age, Education, Occupation of parents of Banyu Urip Surabaya Kindergarten Students in 2023

Characteristics		Gender			
		M		F	
		n	%	n	%
Age	< 20 years	0	0	0	0
	20-30 years	2	11,1	14	38,9
	>30 years	16	88,9	22	61,1
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>
Education	Elementary School	1	5,6	0	0
	Junior High School	1	5,6	4	11,1
	Senior High School	12	66,7	24	66,7
	College	4	22,2	8	22,2
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>
Occupation	Housewife	0	0	17	47,2
	Self-employed/merchant	8	44,4	7	19,4
	Civil Servant/employee	10	55,6	12	33,3
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>

According to the data presented in Table 1, it is evident that the gender distribution of research respondents is predominantly female, with a total of 36 individuals. Furthermore, the age distribution of research respondents indicates that women over the age of 30 constitute the majority, with 22 individuals accounting for 61.1% of the sample. In terms of education, the data reveals that women with a high school or vocational education background are the most prevalent, with 24 individuals representing 66.7% of the sample. Lastly, the occupational distribution of research respondents highlights that housewives dominate the sample, with 17 individuals comprising 47.2% of the total sample.

**Table 2.** Results of Frequency Distribution of Measurement of Parents Knowledge Level about Dental and Oral Health in 2023

Knowledge Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less	22	40,7
Fair	17	31,5
Good	15	27,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100</b>

According to the data presented in Table 2, it is evident that a majority of parents of students, which are 22 individuals (40.7%), had a comparatively lower level of knowledge pertaining to oral health.

**Table 3.** Frequency distribution based on Gender, Age, def-t Index Categories of Banyu Urip Surabaya Kindergarten Students in 2023

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	31	57,4
Female	23	42,6
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age</b>		
5 years	10	18,5
6 years	29	53,7
7 years	15	27,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>def-t Index Categories</b>		
Very Low	7	13,0
Low	11	20,4
Moderate	17	31,5
High	11	20,4

Very High	8	14,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100</b>

According to the data presented in Table 3, it is evident that the majority of students, comprising 57.4% or 31 individuals, are male. Furthermore, the age distribution of students reveals that the largest proportion, accounting for 53.7% or 29 individuals falls within the 6-year age bracket. Additionally, the average def-t index of students indicates that 31.5%, or 17 individuals, exhibit a moderate level of def-t.

**Table 4.** The Results of Data Analysis of Parents Knowledge of Dental and Oral Health with def-t Index of Banyu Urip Surabaya Kindergarten Students in 2023

Parents Knowledge	def-t Index										Total		Sig.
	Very Low		Low		Moderate		High		Very High		n	%	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%			
Good	2	3,70	2	3,70	4	7,41	2	3,70	5	9,26	1	27,7	<b>0.038</b>
Fair	1	1,86	2	3,70	7	12,9	5	9,26	2	3,70	7	31,4	
Less	4	7,41	7	12,9	6	11,1	4	7,41	1	1,86	2	8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12,9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20,3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31,4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20,3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14,8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>40,7</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>	

According to the data presented in Table 4, it is evident that a significant proportion of parents of children possess inadequate information about oral health, with a total of 22 individuals accounting for 40.75% of the sample. Additionally, the majority of students exhibit a moderate level of def-t index, as indicated by 17 individuals comprising 31.48% of the sample. Based on the findings of the statistical test analysis, it has been determined that the significance value, denoted as Sig (2-tailed), is 0.038. Given that the Sig (2-tailed) value of 0.038 is less than the conventional threshold of 0.05, it may be inferred that the alternative hypothesis (H1) is supported, while the null hypothesis (H0) is rejected. Hence, it can be inferred that a notable correlation exists between the parents knowledge about dental and oral health with def-t index variable among kindergarten students at Banyu Urip Surabaya.

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Parents Knowledge about Dental and Oral Health

The results of the research on parental knowledge pertaining to oral health indicate that a majority of parents have a low level of understanding in this domain. It is evident that a significant proportion of parents possess a restricted understanding pertaining to oral health, particularly in relation to teeth brushing methodologies. The results revealed here are consistent with the research conducted by Hanifa et al., (2021), which suggests

a majority of the participants, who were mothers of toddlers attending PAUD Taman Posyandu Wildan Kraton, lacked knowledge on correct tooth brushing techniques.

The role of parents plays a critical role in the education and guidance of children in the management of their oral health. This finding aligns with the outcomes of the research conducted by Fadlilah, (2019) that examined the correlation between parents knowledge about dental health and the DMF-T index of preschool children at Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal Kindergarten Yogyakarta. The study investigated whether knowledge about dental health significantly influences the occurrence of caries in children (Rahina, Y et al., 2022)

The possession of a substantial amount of knowledge by an individual has the potential to influence their behavior with regards to adopting and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. According to the theoretical framework proposed by L. Green as cited in Notoatmodjo, (2014), health behavior is influenced by three primary elements: predisposing factors, enabling factors, and reinforcing factors. One of the contributing variables, namely predisposing factors, includes aspects related to knowledge. According to Notoatmodjo, (2014), the deficiency in individuals' knowledge can be influenced by a multitude of factors, as posited by Notoatmodjo, (2010) in Rahmadani, (2021), these factors encompass both internal elements, such as education, age, interest, and experience, as well as external factors, including occupation, culture, information, perception, and motivation (Ismalayani, I.,2022).

The educational background of most parents tends to be concentrated in the middle and upper levels, thereby potentially facilitating comprehension of oral health-related information. According to Mayasari (2021) findings there is evidence to suggest that the degree of parental education significantly influences the likelihood of dental caries in children. The findings of this research are inconsistent with the results reported by Angelica et al., (2019), in their research on the impact of maternal education level and maternal conduct on the def-t index of children aged 4-5 years. Specifically, found a significant correlation between higher maternal education and lower def-t index scores in their sample of children (Saskianti, T et al., 2021). The survey findings indicate that a significant proportion of parents with children in middle school fall into the age group commonly referred to as the productive age category, specifically individuals aged 30 years and above (Austin, D., 2017). . The findings presented here are consistent with the research conducted by Fadlilah (2019) on the correlation between parents knowledge of dental health and the DMF-T index of preschool children at Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal Kindergarten Yogyakarta. Specifically, the results indicate that there is a positive association between parental age and accumulated experience (Setijanto, D et al., 2023)

Socio-economically, the majority of parents work as civil servants therefore, parents do not have knowledge related to oral health in children, so the number of cavities experienced by their children is quite high (Austin, D, 2017). Working parents should be able to obtain information related to oral health through their coworkers. This finding is in line with research conducted by Rosalina & Jeddy, (2021), which concluded that there was no significant difference in the prevalence of caries and the severity of children's dental caries between working and non-working mothers at Sapta Kemuning Depok PAUD.

#### **4.2 Def-t Index of Banyu Urip Surabaya Kindergarten Students**

Based on the results of the def-t index assessment conducted on students, a majority of them fall within the moderate range. The low def-t index among students may be attributed to several causes, one of which is the insufficient understanding of parents about dental and oral health, particularly in terms of proper tooth brushing techniques. This lack of awareness may contribute to the prevalence of mild dental caries among children. The findings shown here are consistent with the theoretical framework suggested by H. L Blum in Notoatmodjo (2014). According to this framework, there are four key elements that influence an individual's health condition, especially the environment, behavior, access to healthcare services, and genetic predisposition.

Subpar student behavior may have an impact on the def-t index value of students who fall within the moderate range, while inadequate parental understanding of dental health may contribute to the manifestation of undesirable conduct. Preschool-aged children commonly have a propensity for ingesting foods that are known to promote dental caries. Nonetheless, the rare practice of tooth brushing following the consumption of such meals may heighten the likelihood of students developing dental cavities. This finding is consistent with the research done by Damanik (2020), which reveals the correlation between the consumption of cariogenic foods and the prevalence of dental caries among students at SDN 105273 Helvetia Medan.

According to Notoatmodjo, (2014), L. Green's theory names the driving force as one of the factors influencing health behavior. The presence of the UKGS program and counseling services at schools serves as a significant motivating element for healthcare professionals. The Banyu Urip Surabaya Kindergarten has not received any oral health counseling from the local health center for a period of two years since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak.

As a result, educators lack the necessary responsibilities and expertise to effectively instruct students on oral health management, leading to a rise in the prevalence of dental caries among students. According to the findings of Pay et al., (2021), there exists a correlation between the level of knowledge and the influence of instructors on oral health practices among sixth-grade students in SD Baumata Village, Taebenu District. The findings suggest that the effectiveness of a teacher in promoting oral health behaviors is much higher among students who see their teacher's role as positive in preserving dental health, as opposed to those who perceive their teacher's position as ineffective in this regard.

The theory suggested by L. Green in Notoatmodjo, (2014) posits that parents play a crucial role as caregivers in ensuring oral health by providing necessary resources such as toothbrushes, fluoride toothpaste, and clean water. One successful strategy for promoting oral hygiene among students is the provision of specialized toothbrushes, which serves to encourage the adoption of healthy toothbrushing habits.

#### **4.3 Parents Knowledge about Dental and Oral Health with def-t Index of Banyu Urip Surabaya Kindergarten Students**

The results of the data analysis indicate a significant correlation between parents knowledge about dental and oral health with def-t index of Banyu Urip Surabaya Kindergarten students. This can be attributed to a lack of understanding among the majority of respondents regarding knowledge regarding oral health as well as a dearth

of oral health counseling provided to kindergarten students. The present discussion regards the adaptation of Green and Blum's theoretical framework as discussed by Notoatmodjo (2014), which explores the association between health behavior and an individual's health status. Specifically, it highlights the significant influence of parental knowledge in molding behaviors that either promote or hinder children's dental and oral hygiene.

The lack of knowledge in this regard afterwards exerts an adverse influence on the dental health of children. When a child's oral health state is suboptimal, it hampers their ability to engage in routine activities. A strong positive correlation exists between an individual's def-t index and their overall quality of life, indicating that as the def-t index increases, the quality of life tends to deteriorate. Hence, possessing enough information concerning dental health is crucial for parents, particularly in the context of preserving children's oral well-being and preventing the occurrence of dental caries. It is imperative to initiate preventive measures as soon as the child's primary dentition begins to erupt (Sari et al., 2020).

The results of this research align with the findings presented by Sholekhah, (2021), which presented a correlation between mother awareness regarding children's oral health and the prevalence of dental caries among children under the age of five in Posyandu Wiratama in Semarang City. Nevertheless, the findings of this research diverge from the outcomes of the research done by Putra et al., (2021), which determined that there was no statistically significant correlation between parental awareness of oral health and the prevalence of dental caries in children.

According to the theory of Notoatmodjo (2018) as cited in Salsabila et al., (2022), posits that there exists a positive correlation between accurate information and behavioral sustainability. According to the research conducted by Salsabila et al., (2022), within this particular context, individuals who possess a comprehensive understanding are more likely to effectively mitigate the potential harm to their oral health, specifically in relation to the occurrence of dental caries, by actively applying their knowledge in their daily routines. The absence of comprehension in this regard afterwards exerts an adverse influence on the dental health of children. When a child's oral health state is suboptimal, it has a detrimental impact on their everyday activities. A positive correlation exists between an individual's def-t index and their quality of life, indicating that as the def-t index increases, the quality of life tends to decrease. Hence, it is important for parents to possess comprehensive information pertaining to dental health, particularly in the context of preserving children's oral well-being and preventing the occurrence of dental caries. It is important to initiate preventive measures as soon as the primary dentition begins to erupt in children.

The results of this research indicate a significant correlation between parents knowledge about dental and oral health with def-t index of Banyu Urip Surabaya Kindergarten students. According to Notoatmodjo (2014), theoretical framework proposed by Green and Blum, there exists a correlation between an individual's health behavior and their overall health state. Specifically, the theory posits that parental knowledge serves as a fundamental basis for shaping behaviors that either promote or hinder children's dental and oral hygiene.



## 5 CONCLUSION AND RECCOMENDATION

Based on the analysis of the data, it can be inferred that the level of parents knowledge about dental and oral health is predominantly classified as less. Furthermore, the prevalence of dental caries among kindergarten students in Banyu Urip Surabaya is primarily classified as moderate. Additionally, a correlation has been revealed between parents knowledge about dental and oral health with def-t index of Banyu Urip Surabaya Kindergarten students.

Parents of students are anticipated to enhance their knowledge about dental and oral health through various channels such as social media, newspapers, and interpersonal connections, as well as by participating in lectures, counseling sessions, or training programs focused on oral health, facilitated either by trained personnel or healthcare professionals. In order to equip parents with adequate knowledge and enable them to effectively implement this knowledge through constructive measures for preserving oral health, it is imperative to address the topic of oral health for both parents and their children. It is anticipated that dental health practitioners will enhance the frequency of oral health counseling sessions by incorporating appealing counseling media, such as dental models and hand puppets, that are readily embraced by kindergarten students, teachers, and parents. This practice is recommended to occur on an annual basis. Kindergarten educators at Banyu Urip Surabaya are required to inspire students to consistently uphold oral hygiene practices in order to prevent the occurrence of dental caries. This can be achieved through the implementation of regular group toothbrushing sessions held every saturday morning prior to commencing classroom activities.

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