



# UTILIZATION OF DENTAL SERVICES BY PRIVATE SCHOOL CHILDREN AT AIMST UNIVERSITY DENTAL CENTER

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## Introduction

The act of using dental services provided is utilization of dental services. Usually expressed as a percentage of the population who have utilized the dental services offered over a period.

In Malaysia, the government is the major provider of oral healthcare for the primary and secondary school children. Ministry of Health developed a program to improve the oral health status of schoolchildren, referred as Incremental Dental Care. This program covers all schoolchildren of primary and secondary government schools in every state in Malaysia. Data from Annual health management Information System Oral Health Subsystem, 2006, showed coverage of primary school children in Kedah Darul Aman is 91,29 %, while 47,60 % covered secondary school children.

Sekolah Agama Daris is a private school located in Sungai Petani, Kedah which is not covered by the Incremental Dental Care. The general purpose of utilization of AIMST Dental Centre is to extend the coverage of oral health care of school children among unmet need for private school and provide child patients for the AIMST's dental students.

## Materials and Methods

An oral health education programme for school children from standard one to five is carried out by year five BDS students is carried out under the supervision of staff. A customized oral health education program based on children's ability to understand is given. Introducing the schoolchildren, the oral cavity, teeth, and importance of teeth and supervised tooth-brushing drill. A letter was sent to parents of all children requesting for consent for provision of dental services.

A week later all the consent form were collected from school and accordingly a group of 8-10 school children were brought to AIMST dental center by a van

On 21st march 2010 an Oral health education programme for students of Sekolah Agama Daris, Sungai Petani by year 5 dental students from AIMST University.

It was a one-day programme where a brief oral health education talk was given to school children from forms one to five, followed by a tooth brushing drill.

At the same time, consent forms for a free dental service at AIMST University were given to all school children.

48.16% (92/191) gave consent for the treatment services and have utilized the oral health care service at Pedodontic clinic in AIMST University.

A group of eight to ten school children are picked from the school at 8.00 am and dropped back in the school after the treatment by a staff from the faculty of dentistry on a selected days of the week (Monday, Tuesday and Friday).

## Results

The number of visits made by these students range from 1 to 9, with a total of 304 visits. With a mean, (average) number of 3.38 visits per child

### Number of visits

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
17	19	15	13	6	9	6	1	1

Frequency of child visits

Standard wise percentage of children who gave consent and utilized the oral health care services. There was a gradual decrease in percentage of school children who availed the services from standard one to five.

Standard	Total	Attended	Percentage
1	49	33	67.35
2	46	24	52.17
3	34	16	47.06
4	31	12	38.71
5	31	7	22.58

Type of treatments done	Number	%
Amalgam restorations	30	7.2
GIC restorations	170	40.7
Composite restorations	40	9.6
Pulpotomy	23	5.5
Pulpectomy	1	0.2
ART	4	1.0
Preventive Resin Rest.	1	0.2
Fissure sealants	47	11.2
Extractions	83	19.9
Temporary fillings	19	4.5

Forty eight percent (45 male and 47 female) of 191 of school children had given consent and obtained 418 treatments of various kinds. Three major treatments include GIC restorations (40.7%), Extraction of grossly decayed deciduous teeth (19.9%) and fissure sealant application (11.2%).

## Conclusion

Other reasons apart from dental fear of child and parents knowledge to seek dental care were not clear where main barriers like cost, accessibility and knowledge were minimized. The amount of disease is high in the 48% of those who utilized the services as these children had never utilized dental services previously. The reasons of 52% not utilizing the services to be further sought.

## References

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