

Parental Attitude Towards Pedodontic Treatment of their Children in Dental College of Ludhiana, Punjab

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ABSTRACT

Aim: The purpose of the study is to assess the knowledge and attitude of the parents towards pedodontic treatment in dental college. And to determine the awareness of the Parents regarding their Child's dental care. To assess their knowledge and attitude related to their child oral health status. This study will help the dental service providers or Pediatric dentist to create awareness amongs parents towards dental care of their children.

Materials and Method: A cross- sectional study was conducted among parents(n=400) those attending Out Patient Department and receiving dental treatment in the deparment of Pedodontic and preventive dentistry , Desh Bhagat Dental College, Mandigobindarh, Ludhiana. The parents were asked to fill 5 item based self-administered questionnaire.

Results: Results showed 83% of parents were referred by their friends and relatives, 70.5% people chose private dental college as they had confidence in academic facilities, 64.5% people believed that dental college should organizes seminars to educate them and 60% people knew the importance of pediatric treatment and lastly 51% parents were satisfied with the behavior and service provided by pediatric dentist.

Conclusion: The current study reports the attitude of Parents toward Pedodontic treatment in the Dental college and the potential factors that may affect their decisions like waiting time, cost of the treatment, behavior of the dentist. Strong emphasis should be given on referring system and their awareness regarding dental treatment of their child.

Keywords: dental service utilization, parents satisfaction, dental college care.

INTRODUCTION

The parental attitude towards health personnels in general and dentists and dental services in particular are a summit of experiences and events of life. Understanding the attitude of parents helps the general dentist and Pediatric dentist to modify the behavior and attitude of general public towards oral health care of their children. Knowledge and attitude of parents towards Pedodontic treatment and dental services determines whether they search for curative and preventive dental care.¹ For dental health care planning usage of dental services plays a major role. The utilization of dental services by the individual depends upon 3 stages: decision of individual whether to go to dentist or not, selection between private and public sectors, and also on the number of visits to the selected dental practitioner. Likewise while choosing a dentist parents figure out these features: access to care (location, office hours, and waiting time), technical aspects (technical quality of the clinic, equipment and care), interpersonal relationships (dentist and patient relationship) and service fees taken by the dentist.²

According to the WHO ideal Dentist-population ratio is 7500. Dentist-population ratio in India was 1:30,000. According to World Health Statistics – 2014, the ratio is 1:10,000. In rural areas, the dentist population ratio is very less as compared to urban areas. In year 2004, India had one dentist per

10,000 people in urban areas and one dentist per 2.5 lakh people in the rural areas.³ Although a number of studies has been conducted to assess the status of oral health of different population groups especially child population groups in India, there is inadequacy of literature about the attitude of the parents towards Pediatric dentist and dental services provided by them.⁴

Dental caries, orthodontic problems, and trauma in child patient population might have damaging effect on quality of life of the child. So, psychological, social, cultural factors and personal standards may be related to growing demand for Pedodontic treatment.²

Oral health of children is a relevant health issue that drives attention and care of parents. Social media websites such as twitter, facebook have auspicious power to ease the link between dental professionals and public/ parents.⁵ Dental caries is the most common chronic childhood disease is found in India. So, increasing caries risk in children is increasing the demand for pedodontic treatment. By using these social networking dental health care professionals create the awareness for treatment for their children.⁶

Information related to dental services utilization for children are very less. Hence, this study was conducted to determine parental attitude towards dental college for seeking the treatment needs for their children.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A ten-item, closed ended questionnaire-based, cross-sectional study was conducted in Department of Pedodontics And Preventive Dentistry, Desh Bhagat Dental College, Ludhiana by means of a self – administered survey of parents visiting the out-patient department with their children for treatment. The sample size was calculated using Cochran's formula.

- 400 sample size were taken for the study.

- Survey was conducted after taking the informed consent from the parents.

Written informed consent was taken prior to the commencement of the study. The study was reviewed by Institutional review board and clearance was obtained before the start of study. The study was carried out in the out-patient department of Rama dental college, Kanpur. The study sample consisted of 400 sample size. A self- administered questionnaire was prepared in local language Hindi. Survey contained 5 questions which contained multiple choices. While participants filled the forms they were inspected by one examiner, but no hints given by them. The participants were given all the details regarding aim and objectives of the study. All the participants were assured that no names would be displayed on the questionnaires and that all informations belongs to them would kept confidential.

Statistical analysis:

The data was entered into Microsoft excel spread sheets. All of these data were transferred to SPSS (statistical package for social sciences, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Descriptive statistics frequency distribution tests and chi- squared analysis were employed, confidence was kept at 95% and p value ≤ 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

RESULTS

It provides statistics for responses given to the question regarding referral to the pediatric department for treatment. Table 1 depicts a majority of the patients were suggested by their friends/ relatives (83%) for Pedodontic treatment

Table 1: Who referred you or suggested the Pedodontic treatment?

	Response	Percent	Chi Sqaure test p Value
Friends/relatives	332	83%	0.001*
dentist	50	12.5%	
Television/internet	32	8%	

Table 2: Why did you choose the dental college for Pedodontic treatment?

	Response	Percent	Chi Sqaure test p Value
Confidence in academic facilities	282	70.5%	0.001*
Private clinics are more expensive	106	26.5%	
An official dispatch	12	3%	

Table 3: How should the public, be informed about Pedodontic treatments?

	Response	Percent	Chi Sqaure test p Value
Dental colleges should organise seminars	258	64.5	0.001*
By radio/ tv programs	50	12.5	
By internet	52	13.0	
Dentist	40	10.0	

Table 4: Do you understand the importance of Pedodontic treatment for your child's dental health?

	Response	Percent	Chi Sqaure test p Value
Yes	240	60%	0.05*
No	160	40%	

Table 5: Are you satisfied with service provided by pедиatric dentist in the dental college?

	Response	Percent	Chi Sqaure test p Value
yes	102	51.0	0.001*
no	40	20.0	
Don't kow	58	29.0	

followed by referral from dentist (12.5%) and television/ internet (8%). Chi –square test yields statistically significant association (p value- 0.001).

Table 2 depicts,70.5% of the respondents chose dental college for their pedodontic treatment as a result of their confidence in academic facilities followed by a response of 26.5% people who thought private clinic were more expensive. 3% of the response was for an official dispatch. Chi – square test reveal a statistically significant difference (p value 0.001).

Table 3 depicts,The respondents were also asked how they should be informed about Pedodontic treatments to their 64.5% replied that dental colleges should organize seminars while others were in favour of radio/ tv programme(12.5%) through internet (13%) and by dentist (10%). Chi –square test reveals the significant difference amongst these responses. (p value 0.001).

Table 4 depicts, When asked about whether they understand importance of pedodontic treatment of their child about 60%gives an affirmative response while 40% respondents said that they did not understand the importance.(p value- 0.05).

Table 5 depicts,in this survey, 51% of the respondents were satisfied with service provided by Pediatric dentist in the dental college whereas 20% of the respondents were not satisfied with the service,29% of the respondents don't know whether they satisfied with the service provided by Pediatric dentist or not.

DISCUSSION

The present study was conducted to explore attitude of parents towards Pedodontic treatment in dental college. Historically, relatively few studies have explored such public preferences, and the most are non-comparable. Among those surveyed, It provides statistics for responses given to the question regarding referral to the pediatric department for treatment. A majority of the patients were suggested by their friends/ relatives (83%) for Pedodontic treatment followed by referral from dentist (12.5%) and television/ internet (8%) (table 1). Chi – square test yields statistically significant association (p value- 0.001). This findings is similar to that of study conducted by Alvesalo I et al (2006) where in care seeking the greatest percentage (34%) of respondents relied on the advice of friends, relatives or neighbours. This finding confirms the importance of the lay referring system. The following dimensions of satisfaction were measured: difficulty in getting an appointment, general satisfaction with care, costs of care in general, convenience in treatment and satisfaction with oral health.8 McCunniff M D et al (1998) concluded that a strong effect of increasing age being related to dental utilization, while additional research is needed to clarify the importance of WIC referrals.9

Among those surveyed 70.5% of the respondents chose dental college for their Pedodontic treatment as a result of their confidence in academic facilities followed by a response of 26.5% people who thought private clinic were more expensive. 3% of the response was for an official dispatch. Chi–square test reveal a statistically significant difference (p value 0.001).These findings are similar to that of study conducted by Thanveer K et al (2010)where results showed acceptable level of patients confidence in academic facilities provided by dental college.

Statistically significant difference at was seen in the sub-scales of facilities, context, cost and overall satisfaction scale between the departments which were visited by the patient for their treatment.10

In our study it was found that about 64.5% of the respondents agreed that public should be informed about the pedodontic treatment by the seminars organized by the dental colleges. In (1984), the pre-school programme was mainly a preventive and promotive programme, with the objective of creating awareness and inculcating positive oral health habits and attitudes in kindergartens or pre-schools, dental nurses and other auxiliaries carry out activities, which include dental health talks and tooth brushing drills.11 On contrarory Shirin A.et al (2015), where they have concluded that social media can serve as rich source of data on parental behaviours and perceptions related to oral health of their children, and these social media have potential to facilitate communication between dental professionals and public. On the contrary in our study 13% people believed that

public can be better informed by social media through internet¹². 12.5% of the respondents felt that they should be educated by radio/tv programmes. Only 10% people felt that parents can be educated/ influenced by dentist only.

When asked about whether they understand importance of pedodontic treatment of their child about 60% gave an affirmative response while 40% respondents said that they did not understand the importance.(p value-0.05). These findings were similar with study conducted by Sarnat M et al (1984) where they found that the more positive a mother's attitude regarding herself, the lower her caries rate. The more positive a mother's attitude regarding her child, the less caries the child had, the better the child's oral hygiene, and the more dental treatment the child received.¹³ Setty V J et al(2016) they conducted a study in Bengaluru and found that the parents of Bengaluru city had superficial or partial knowledge of primary teeth and that there is a need to improve this awareness, showed similar findings.¹⁴In this survey, 51% of the respondents were satisfied with service provided by Pediatric dentist in the dental college whereas 20% of the respondents were not satisfied with the service,29% of the respondents didn't know whether they satisfied with the service provided by Pediatric dentist or not. Study was supported by AlMutairi M A 2016 where they found that the majority of the parents were strongly satisfied with the care their children were receiving from the dental students, and strongly agreed that the parents and their children were treated with respect.¹⁵ Pediatric department has been successful in achieving parents satisfaction regarding their treatment and other operational aspects related to access.¹⁶

CONCLUSION

The data collected from the current study is useful for developing future plans for patient care, but within the limitation ,emphasis should be given on to the proper referral system through which public should be referred to gain the facilities provide by dental colleges. Regarding the importance of Pedodontic treatment parents should know about the importance of deciduous teeth as they are natural space maintainer for succedaneous teeth and aids in mastication, speech esthetics. Hence, we should take care of them and people should be educated via social media and by organizing seminars by dental colleges. Social media plays a important role for creating awareness in public and lastly, we can conclude that parents were highly satisfied with the care provided by the Pediatric dentist and this should be maintained in a proper way.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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