

## **Knowledge and Attitudes of Parents regarding child dental care in an Indian Population**

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**Abstract:** The aim of this study was to assess the attitudes and knowledge of parents regarding child dental care in children under the age of five years, living in Piparia, Waghodia taluka and adjoining areas. Parents of 200 children under the age of 5 years, who visited K.M Shah Dental College and Hospital, Vadodara for dental treatment of their children were selected. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect details of parent attitudes and awareness on child dental care as in baby bottle use, tooth brushing, family elder's disapproval of child sugar snacking, dental visits, development of cavities, need to restore primary teeth. 60% parents felt children eventually develop cavities and 50% felt cavities cannot be prevented. Control of child sugar intake was considered unwise by 81% and 65% felt primary teeth need not be treated, 62.5% parents suggested family elders disapproval of controlling child's eating habits. Child first dental visit by one year of age was supported by only 35% of parents and lack of awareness regarding cleaning of oral cavity since birth by 70% of parents, 50% monitored and helped the child while brushing and 30% knew brushing was to be done twice a day. Finally 25% of parents said 'yes' to regular dental visits. The attitudes of parents towards child dental care were found to be largely unfavorable and dental awareness and knowledge poor.

**Key words:** Child dental care, Parental attitudes, Parental knowledge

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**How to cite:** Bahuguna R, Jain A, Khan SA. Knowledge and attitudes of parents regarding child dental care in an Indian population. *AJOHAS* 2011; 1(1): 9-12.

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