

DisM. Y.

ORAL HYGIENE OF SCHOOLCHILDREN

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Relevance. The relevance of this topic lies in the fact that oral diseases are a significant worldwide public health problem. According to Marcenes et al. there are 3.9 billion people affected by oral diseases. That is why it is important to educate people of different ages especially school children in oral hygiene which includes lectures on oral structures, diseases and their prevention as well as lessons in practical care.

Aim: the aim of the study which is based on questioning of parents of first year schoolchildren is to demonstrate the importance of delivering classes of oral hygiene among schoolchildren.

Materials and methods. Articles devoted to caries morbidity among schoolchildren in the UK and India (using e-Bud site) and in Belarus were analyzed. Parents of first-year schoolchildren were questioned with the help of a self-designed questionnaire. An educational class in oral hygiene was given for first-year schoolchildren followed by the analysis of its results.

Results and discussion. Results of research works of two educational programs introduced in Great Britain and India showed a significant progress in knowledge not only among children but also among teachers. In the first study it turned out that 10 out of 17 questions proved a significant increase in correct responses. In addition teachers were very positive about the lessons and suggested some improvements. The results of the second study suggested that experiential learning was an effective school based oral health education method for improvement of oral hygiene in primary schoolchildren. According to research works conducted in Belarus on the presence of carious teeth in 12-year-old children caries decreased by 33 percent as compared with the survey results in 1968-1986. This positive dynamic was connected with State Prevention Program 1998 and motivation of children to use fluoride toothpaste regularly. According to our interview of parents of primary school children 88 percent of them regularly teach their children how to keep the oral cavity clean and intact. 57 percent agreed that they had heard about oral hygiene lessons given in kindergartens. Yet, 42 percent had never heard about such educational programs. 83 percent of responders expressed their wish for their children to be instructed in oral hygiene at school on a regular basis. Upon observation of the educational class which had been given for first year school students all children reacted positively and showed great sincere interest in oral hygiene.

Conclusion. To conclude it is highly necessary to introduce educational programs on oral health in schools to encourage the above mentioned results.