

STUDY OF THE PREVALENCE OF SKIN DISEASES IN PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN DAMIETTA

Thesis

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*First and last of all, all praises to **ALLAH***

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INTRODUCTION

Skin diseases are very common all over the world. Several factors influence the type and prevalence of skin diseases in any community. They include genetic constitution, hygiene standards, climate, customs, occupations, and quality and quantity of medical care. Thus, there is a wide variation in the pattern of skin diseases reported from different parts of the world, even in the same country (*William, 2004*).

School children represent a unique section of the population that may influence the health status within the whole community because school environment makes children vulnerable to cross transmission of communicable skin diseases, which can then be transmitted to family members (*Shakkoury and Abu-wandy, 1999*).

Many studies in developing countries have reported a high prevalence of transmissible skin disease among school children (*Acheampong et al., 1988; Dagnew and Erwin, 1991*). In Egypt, only few studies were carried out to detect the prevalence of skin diseases. In Assiut governorate, more than half of population in rural areas had one or more skin diseases (*Abdel-Hafez et al., 2003*). In Cairo, infections constituted most of dermatoses in the population attending Ain Shams University hospitals (*EL-Khateeb, 2010*).

A valid health care program directed to school children may represent a potential key to control the high prevalence of

infectious skin diseases as well as other related dermatoses. Such health care program will not be reliable without accurate database to guide the planning process (*EL-Khateeb, 2010*).

The present study was performed among school children in Damietta (31, 42N-31,80E), about 200 kilometers to the north of the capital; Cairo. The climate is hot and dry in summer with mild wet winter.

AIM OF THE WORK

The present study aims to obtain information about the prevalence of skin diseases among primary school children in Damietta. Our ultimate goal is to collect data that may have potential influence on the planning for local health care strategies.