

**Study the Contributing Factors for  
Dental Problems among Children:  
(Descriptive Study)**

*Thesis*

*Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of Master  
Degree in Pediatric Nursing*

*by*

**Sabah Abd El-Monaem Mahmoud**

**(B.Sc. Nursing, 2006)**

**Faculty of nursing- Benha University**

**Nursing Teacher at Shoubra Technical Nursing School**

**Faculty of Nursing**

**Ain Shams University**

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*Supervisors*

**Prof. Dr. Randa Mohamed Adly**

Professor of Pediatric Nursing  
Faculty of Nursing  
Ain Shams University

**Assist. Prof. Dr. Hayam Refaat  
Tantawi**

Assist. Professor of Pediatric Nursing  
Faculty of Nursing  
Ain Shams University

**Faculty of Nursing  
Ain Shams University  
2016**

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***Sabah Abd El-Monaem Mahmoud***

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## **GLOSSARY**

| <i>Item</i>             | <i>Defecation</i>                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Milky teeth</b>      | Teeth erupted within period of 6 months to 30 months of infant's life.                                 |
| <b>Permanent teeth</b>  | Teeth erupted instead of milky teeth and continued throughout life.                                    |
| <b>Dental caries</b>    | Dental problem caused by accumulation of plague on the teeth                                           |
| <b>Gingivitis</b>       | Inflammation of the gum caused by bacteria characterized by red, swollen gum and gum can bleed easily. |
| <b>Periodontitis</b>    | When gingivitis is not treated it advanced to periodontitis                                            |
| <b>Malocclusion</b>     | Misalignment of teeth result in poor pit.                                                              |
| <b>Traumatic injury</b> | Reefers to injury to teeth or periodontium                                                             |
| <b>Missed tooth</b>     | Removal tooth of mouth                                                                                 |

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Society gives special attention to the developing years of childhood, acknowledging that much of what happens to affect the health of a child bears directly on the health and well-being of the adult that child will become. **Aim of the Study:** This study aims to assess the contributing factor for dental problems among children through: 1. Determine the common dental problems among the studied children, 2. Identify the contributing factors to the dental problems among the studied children. **Research questions:** What are the most common dental problems among children?, What are the contributing factors for these dental problems? **Setting:** This study was conducted at outpatient dental clinic at El Demerdash hospital and pediatric outpatient dental clinic at faculty of dental medicine. **Subject:** A convenient sample of (100) children and their mothers who were attending the previous mentioned setting. **Tools:** Interviewing Questionnaire Sheet. It was consisted from three parts **and** an observational check list for teeth brushing. **Results:** Tooth decay, traumatic injuries, gum disease and tooth loss were the common dental problems among children, concerning to the nutritional habits of the studied children it was found that, more than half (56%) of the studied children their favorite foods were chocolate, **Conclusion:** The most common dental problems were, tooth decay, traumatic injury, gum disease, tooth loss and malocclusion, the contributing factors were mothers and children deficit in their total knowledge **Results: Recommendations:** Emphasis on mothers' awareness and knowledge about teeth development, educating, monitoring and evaluating the dental practices of children.

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**Keywords:** Contributing Factors, Dental Problems among Children.

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# Introduction

Society gives special attention to the developing years of childhood, acknowledging that much of what happens to affect the health of a child bears directly on the health and well-being of the adult that child will become. In the case of oral health, health promotion and disease prevention, is essential to improve the oral health and well-being of all children. However adequate nutrition during pregnancy, including adequate folate intake, avoidance of substances of abuse and therapeutic agents that have teratogenic potential, and the elimination and control of microbial infections in the mothers that, may increase the likelihood of an infant's healthy (*Jolly, 2012*).

Dental health is an important factor in the overall health of any individual, and includes the health of teeth and gums. Dental problems, mostly in the form of caries (tooth decay) and gum disease, are common in developed countries; it affects 60-90% of school children, other problems such as orthodontic problems or stained discolored teeth, are common in children. Meanwhile, there are some indicating symptoms of other serious dental problems or systemic diseases such as bad breath and dry mouth (*WHO, 2014*).

There are multiple contributing factors, which may lead to dental problems and affect their life activities, these factors may be ignored by the child and their care givers. These factors may play a significant role in developing dental problems among children such as, lack of hygienic care for the oral cavity and the influences of some bad living habits those with a systemic disease that lowers resistance to infection, genes and traumatic causes (**Hardie, 2013**).

With proper dental care identification of problems could be early recognized, thus reducing the possibility that it will get worse. Therefore, the important thing in maintaining optimum dental health for the children, is to provide the proper care to the child's teeth because it will have an effect on the condition and health of the secondary and permanent teeth (**Bruce, 2012 and Jolly, 2012**).

## **Significance of the study:**

Dental problems in children are very common due to many factors related to the role of the caregivers and the self-care of children themselves. These dental problems may affect on the children's milky and permanent teeth as well which may leads to other health problems (**Jolly, 2012**). Therefore, it is important to carry out this study to shed the light on the contributing factors. Through identifying these factors we can prevent dental problems through health teaching to children and their care givers to achieve optimum child's wellbeing.

## **Aim of the Study**

This study aims to: Assess the contributing factor for dental problems among children through:

1. Determine the common dental problems among the studied children.
2. Identify the contributing factors to the dental problems among the studied children.

### **Research questions:**

- What are the most common dental problems among children?
- What are the contributing factors for these dental problems?

# **Review of Literature**

## **Part I) Overview about Dental Development in Children:**

Both the timing of dental development and tooth size are determined primarily by heredity. Children differ greatly in the size of the crown (the part of tooth above the gum line), except for the earliest stages of prenatal development, and possibly the third permanent molars or wisdom teeth. All teeth that appear in the primary dentition, differs from the permanent one in many of the aspects like in primary teeth the premolars are absent and also the other teeth varies in many of the morphological aspects from the permanent ones (*McGeorge, 2014*).

### ***Stages of Teeth Development in Children:***

**There are four stages for teeth development in Children; It include:**

#### **1. Pre-Dental stage:**

This is the time when the baby is without any teeth in the oral cavity and this period remains for less than 6 months. The upper and lower gums pads resemble each other in the morphology therefore; gum is important to remain the open bite in the front region and this is the