

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE REGARDING PRIMARY DENTITION CARE AMONG MOTHERS WITH TODDLERS

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INTRODUCTION

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- A good knowledge, attitude and practices among parents towards preventive dentistry can be translated into a healthy primary dentition of their child.
- An early intervention becomes important factor towards better oral health for young generation.
- Parents, especially mothers play the most important role in shaping their children's lifestyle.

INTRODUCTION

- Many parents are neglecting oral hygiene of their kids especially during primary teeth stage.
- Specifically in Dungun, from January until December 2015 only 53.4% of toddlers had their oral cavity checked.
- Furthermore, when dental examination done at preschools in Dungun, 41.6% of them need dental treatment. (HMIS)
- These two figures show that prevention and dental health education are not yet being well received and covered to toddlers.
- These also act as basis of the emergance of this study towards the seriousness of this matter.

INTRODUCTION

- Many parents are aware that primary teeth are important but they do not know when they are supposed to bring their child for dental visit. They also unsure about the importance of behaviour modification counselling that will be done during first dental visit.

(Gussy *et al* , 2007)



OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

GENERAL :

- To assess awareness regarding primary dentition among mothers with toddlers

SPECIFIC :

- To evaluate knowledge of mothers with toddlers on importance of primary dentition.
- To analyze attitude of mothers towards primary teeth and oral health.
- To assess practices among mothers on their child's primary dentition care.



METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

Types of study	Cross sectional study
Number of sample	88
Place of study	Government Health facilities in Dungun: <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Klinik Kesihatan•Klinik Pergigian•Klinik Desa
Participants	Mothers with toddler from age 0-4 years old attending government health facilities in Dungun Exclusion: New mothers with newborn baby < 1 years old
Tools	Self administered questionnaire
Study Period	Jun to December 2015

METHODOLOGY

- Questionnaires
 - Consists of 3 parts; knowledge, attitude and practice related to the care of primary dentition .
 - Pretest done on 10 randomly selected subjects prior to study
- Data entry and analysis
 - All data collected were checked for completeness.
 - Analysed by Statistical Package for The Social Sciences (SPSS), version 12.0



RESULTS & ANALYSIS

Sociodemographic characteristic

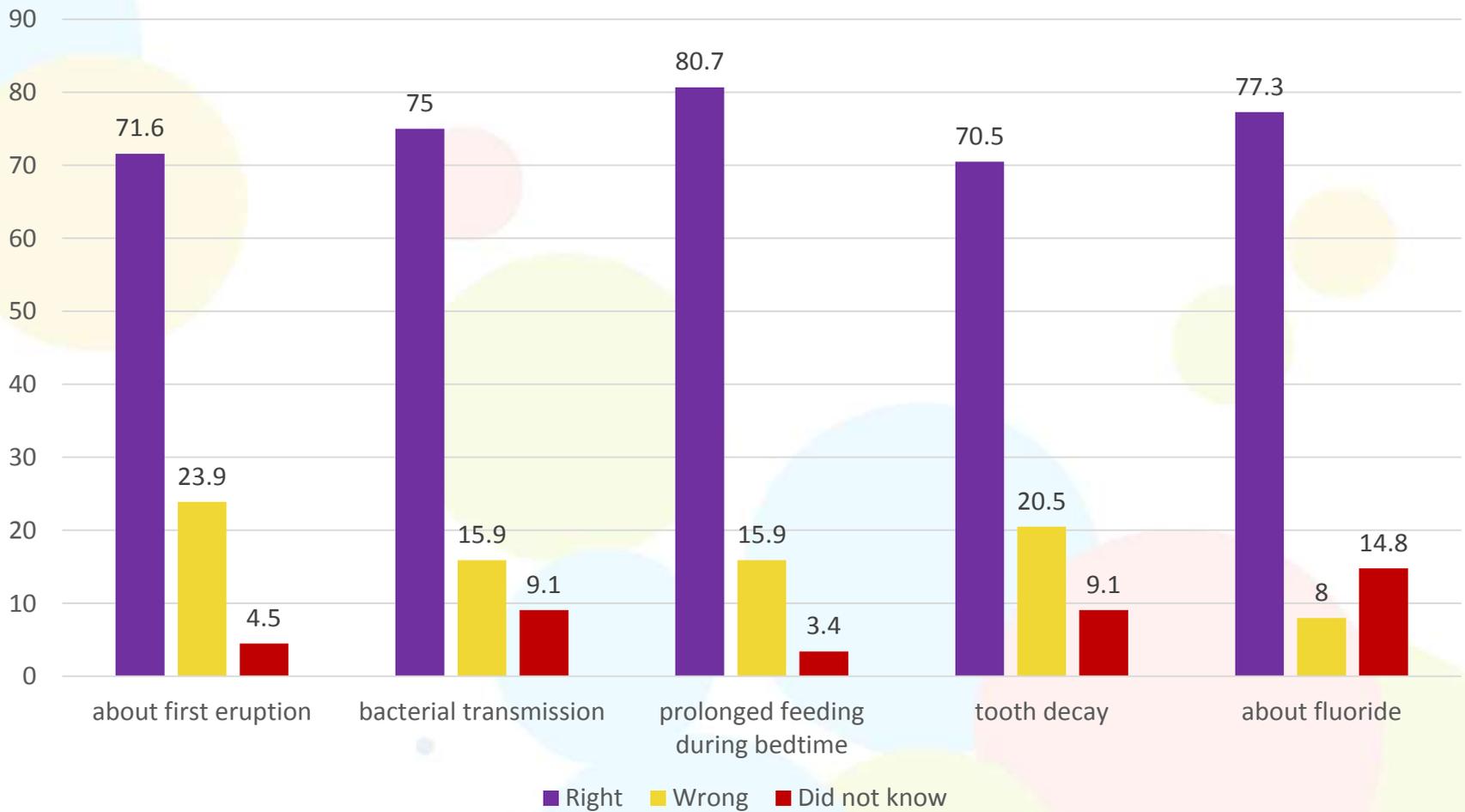
		n	%
Age of Mothers (m)	31 years old		
No of Children (m)	2		
Age of children (m)	2 years old		
Household income	<RM499	2	2.3
	RM500 – RM1999	43	48.9
	RM 2000 – RM 4999	31	35.2
	> RM 5000	12	13.6
Education level	No formal education	1	1.1
	Primary school	2	2.3
	Secondary school	54	64.8
	Tertiary education	31	35.3



KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE

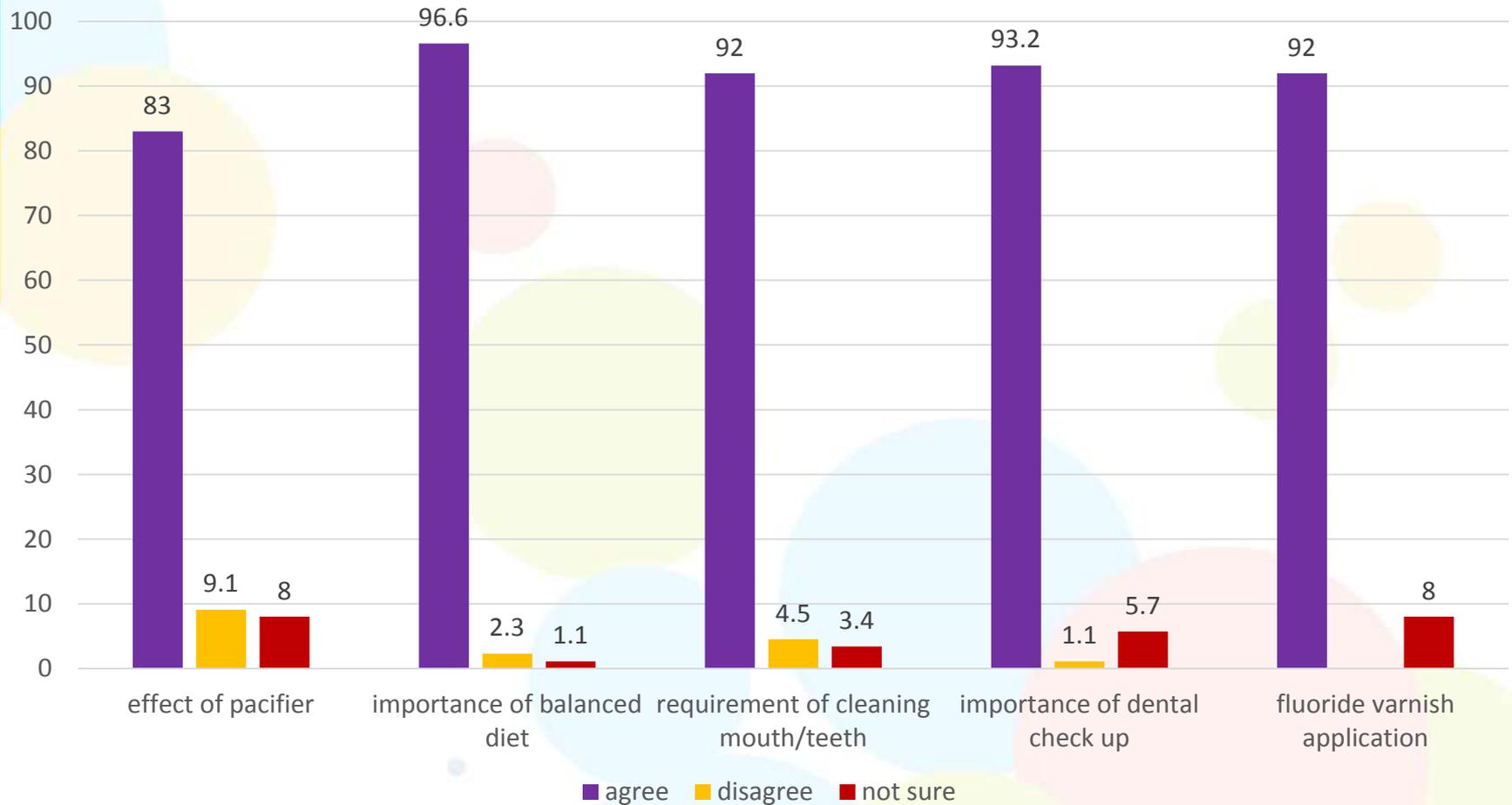
KNOWLEDGE

Percentage of Mothers Asked About Basic Knowledge In Primary Dentition



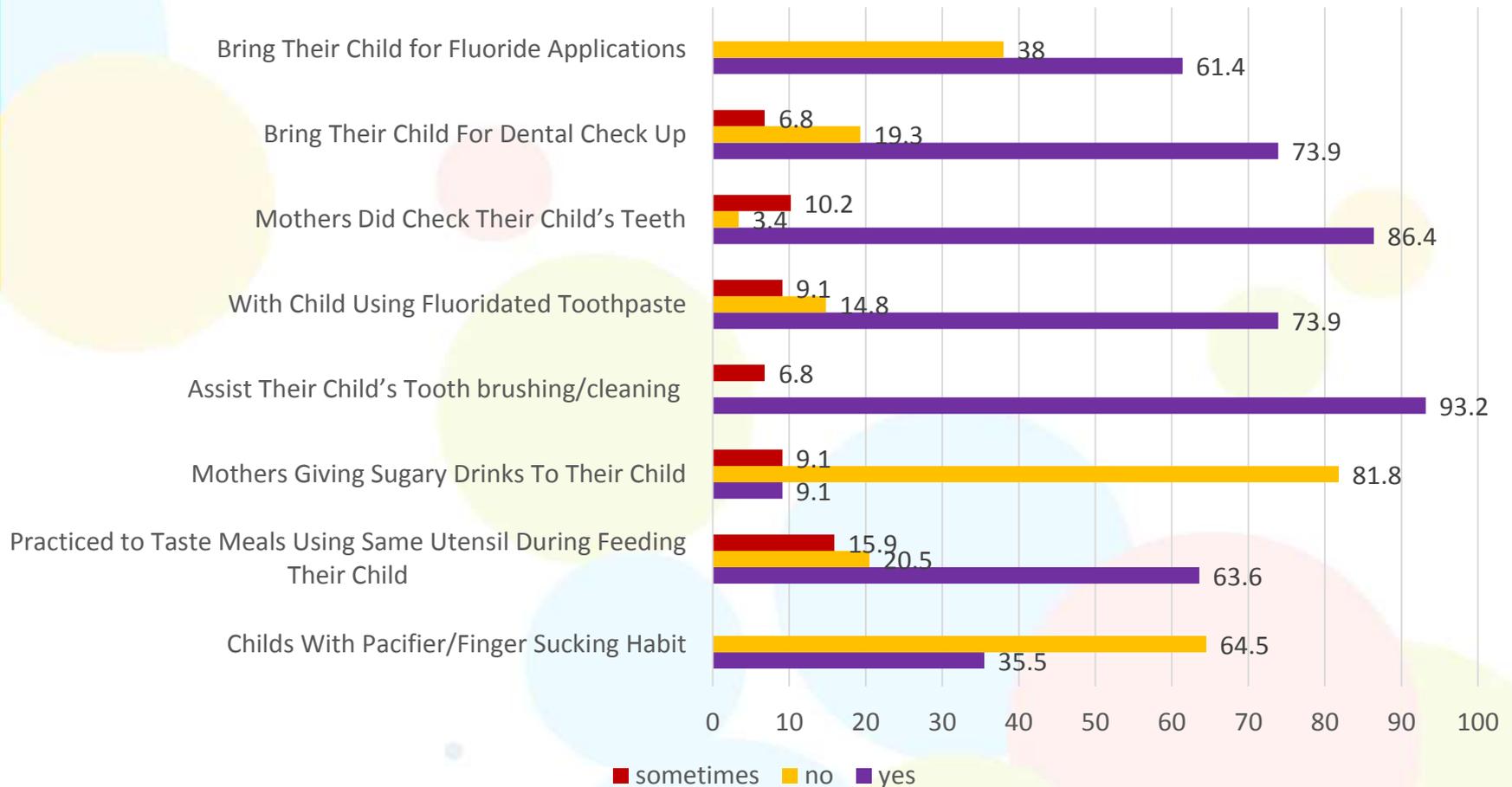
ATTITUDE

Percentages of Answers in Attitude Questions Towards Primary Dentition Care



PRACTICE

Percentages of Answers in Practice Questions Towards Primary Dentition Care





DISCUSSION

Basic Knowledge

- Only 71.6% (63) of respondents knew that first eruption of primary tooth is as early 6 months.
- This result was lower than studies done by Shani *et al* in Kelantan, which 92.2% parents and 91.2% caretakers answered correctly about the first teeth eruption.
- These shows the imbalance in spreading of dental knowledge within this region.

Basic Knowledge

- 70.5% (62) mothers agreed that childhood caries can affect the normal growth of permanent teeth.
- In similar findings found in Manitoba, Canada (59.6%) and Shah Alam, Malaysia (60.4%) respondents respectively agreed that problems in primary teeth can affect permanent teeth.

(Robert *et al*, 2006; Alaa *et al*, 2013)

Basic Knowledge

Why concerning on primary teeth?

- Untreated primary teeth can cause many complications such as pain, oral infection, problems with eating and sleeping, malnutrition, and also alterations in growth and development (Schroth et al, 2013)
- Early loss of primary teeth might increased risk of malocclusion in later dentition (Kagihara et al, 2009)
- Gussy *et al* concerning the pre-schoolers wrote that these problems can affect their growth and quality of life

Diet

- 96.6% (85) know that balance diet are important for dental growth, yet 18.2% gave sugary drinks to their toddler.
- **Shani et al** reported in 99% of parents know foods that can cause **tooth** decay, still 45% of them give sweetened liquid in bottle.

Diet

- Many mothers reported practices prolonged / night time bottle feeding whilst having good knowledge about diet and dietary practices.

(Suresh et al, 2010; Carolina et al, 1997)

- These might be because mothers were not aware of the hidden sugars in the milk, where else giving bottle/breast feed immediately prior to bedtime was a common cultural practice of the region

Pacifier

- The prevalence of malocclusion is higher in primary dentition in children with finger sucking habit (Zhifei *et al*, 2016)
- Pacifier usage can cause 3.4 times higher possibility of having malocclusion at age 3 years old (Yvonne *et al*, 2015)

Pacifier

- 83% (73) of mothers agreed pacifier can disrupt normal development but only 77% (67) are having child free from thumb sucking or pacifier habit
- Some parents disagree because noticeably the pacifier do no harm but to comfort their child.
- There was a statement of Canadian Paediatric Society, 2003 that reported the use of pacifier can reduce risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndromes (SIDS) which may encourage this habit.
- Obviously, parents are not aware about the effects that are not sudden and takes time to discover in early ages.

Bacterial Transmission

- Microorganisms responsible for dental carries apparently can be transmitted from 1 individual to another (Carolina *et al*, 1997) and suppression of maternal reservoir of streptococci mutans by dental treatment clearly showed that infection to the baby can be prevented or delayed (Robert J, 2003)

Bacterial Transmission

- 75% (66) of mothers in the study know bacteria can be transmitted by direct sharing of utensils/food but in contrary 63.6% (56) shared spoon to taste meal while feeding their child.
- In studies done by Shani *et al* among parents and caretakers, the same result also reported.
- More education and awareness should be given to the mothers regarding direct transmission of the bacteria via shared utensils.

Preventive Care

- Shani *et al* reported 81.4% parents knew children mouth should be cleaned after tooth erupted, yet only 59.8% of them do brush their child's teeth (in priority).
- But in our study, 92% agree that mouth / teeth should be cleaned after meal and as resemblance to that, 93.2% practiced to clean / brush their child's mouth / teeth even before eruption of teeth.
- The respondents seem to know the important of daily brushing even before eruption occurs.

Dental check up

- 93% agree that bringing their children for dental check up is important. 86.4% check their toddler's teeth and only 73.9% actually bring their toddler for check up.
- This is due to common conflict on when is the correct time to bring children for their first dental check up.
- Various local and international studies also gave same conflicting result when asked about suitable time for first dental check up. (3-4,14-16)

Dental check up

- There are a different understanding of when is the correct time to bring their children for first dental check up. Unless there is the need for the child to see dental practitioners, they will most probably wait at least for the first eruption to occur.
- In Malaysia, children are recommended to have their first dental check up in first 6 months of age.

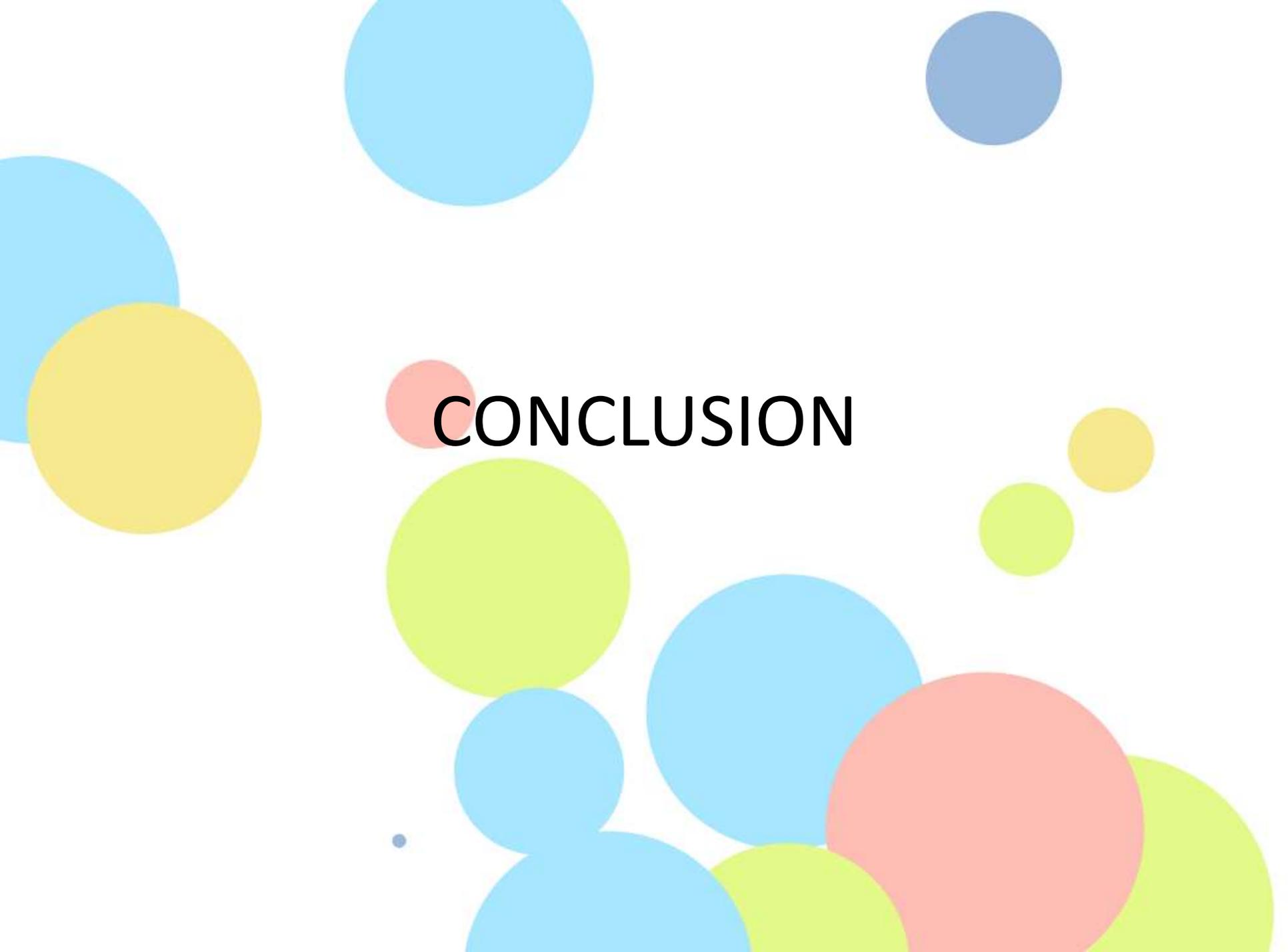
(Rekod Kesihatan Kanak-kanak (0-6 tahun)pindaan 02/2011 Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia)

Fluoride

- 77.3% know that fluoride in water can prevent caries. The exposure of water fluoridation in Terengganu started in 2009 even though it was started out in Malaysia earlier (1972).
- Although most are aware about existence of fluoride in the water, less is known about their usage in combating caries. ^(2,14)
- Early studies of community fluoridation showed caries reduction of 50% to 60%. But more recent estimates are lower from 18% to 40%. This decrease is probably cause by exposure to fluoride from other sources like dentifrices. ⁽²⁹⁾

Fluoride

- 92% agree that fluoride can help to prevent caries but only 73.9% use fluoridated tooth paste and 61.4% had fluoride varnish applied at dental clinic.
- **Shani *et al*** 85% knew fluoride is important, 52% knew they should start using fluoridated toothpaste after children learn to spit.
- These results show that knowledge about importance of fluoride was not enough for mothers to use fluoridated toothpaste and seek fluoride varnish applications for their children.



CONCLUSION

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- Most mothers have generally good knowledge and attitudes towards primary dentition and its care but are yet to translate them into good practice.

CONCLUSION

- Good level of knowledge is probably due to the wide exposure to oral health education and promotion among Malaysians through school dental service, antenatal clinics and other avenues, carried out by the Ministry of Health.
- However, the of awareness need to be increased by especially dental health education targeting pregnant mothers and to follow them until the children are at least in primary school because by then the school dental service in Malaysia will provide oral health promotion, preventive and curative activities with the aim of rendering school children orally fit before they leave school. ⁽¹⁶⁾

CONCLUSION

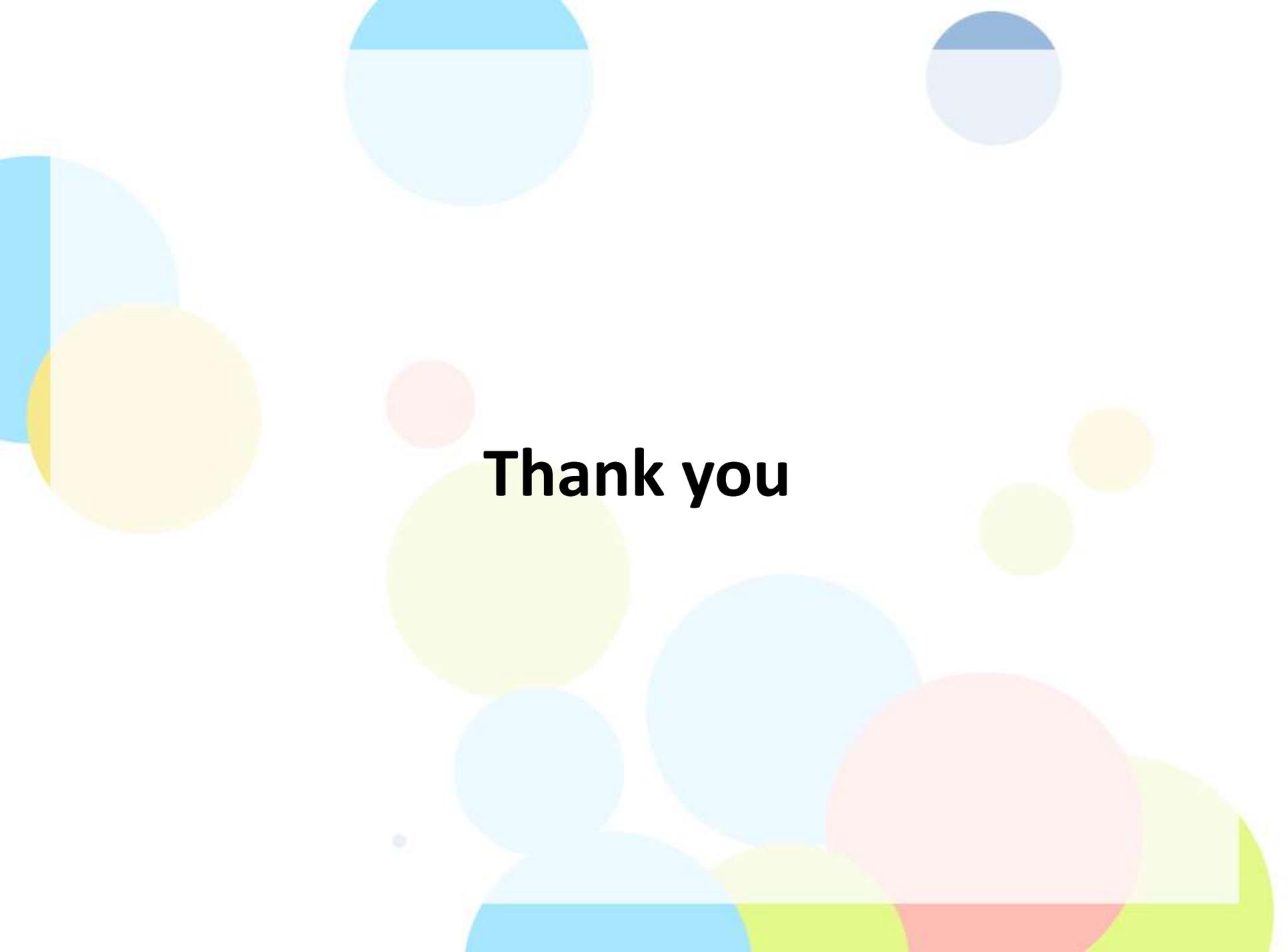
- So, the intervention should be started earlier on toddlers because by the time they enter primary school, it may be too late.
- These require multidisciplinary and teamwork approaches especially towards the mothers to produce caries-free generations in future.

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Thank you