

SUMMARY

This study was undertaken in 1997, in Gampaha MOH area to compare the decayed, missing and filled teeth among 12 year old children attending government and private schools.

The sample was derived from 12 year old children from government and private schools. 217 children from government schools and 208 children from private schools were included in the study.

Two studies, a clinical and a questionnaire were undertaken simultaneously to obtain data. The diagnostic criteria was adhered to the standards set by WHO (1996).

Caries prevalence by DMFT was compared between two groups and between sex. Variables taken into analysis were, frequency of sweets consumptions, time of sweets consumption, frequency of tooth brushing, time of tooth brushing mode of brushing and substance used for tooth brushing.

A low value of mean caries experience was observed in private school children. Mean DMFT for government schools was 0.68 and mean DMFT for private schools was

0.38. This was statistically significant. Mean caries experience of females was significantly lower than males.

There was a reduction of mean caries experience when comparing the results of the study with the values recorded in the past in different areas of the country.