

SUMMARY

The study was done in Ratgama and Tawalama area to compare the prevalence of dental caries in 12 year old school children. 205 children from Ratgama and 190 children from Tawalam were included in the study. Caries prevalence by DMF(T) and DMF(S) were compared. Variables taken into analysis were sweets consumption, sea food consumption, fluoride toothpaste use, oral hygiene habits, family income, family size and mothers education. Marked difference in caries prevalence was found between two areas DMF(T) was 0.96 and 2.54 and DMF(S) were 1.76 and 4.22 at Ratgama and Tawalama respectively.

Both the differences were statistically significant. Caries free proportions, were Ratgama 55.1% and Tawalama 22.1%. Treatment need has been met by 64.4% at Ratgama and 55.5% at Tawalama. Mean number of teeth missing per student was 0.15 Ratgama and 0.44 at Tawalama. Ratio of filled/decay was 1.76 at Ratgama and 1.03 at Tawalama.