DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDEX FOR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS IN NOHPS 2015

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Objective: To develop and validate an index to measure preschool teachers’ oral health knowledge, practice and perceptions of their roles as oral health promoters in the National Oral Health Survey for Preschool Children 2015 (NOHPS 2015).

Methods: The questionnaire was developed in English by content experts of the National Steering Committee for NOHPS 2015 based on several oral health domains. It was translated into Malay using a forward-backward technique. The questionnaires were tested on ten preschool teachers for face validity and later on another 300 preschool teachers (150 each for the Malay and English versions). Psychometric analysis of the questionnaires involved content and face validity tests as well as factor analysis, internal and test-retest reliability, respectively.

Results: Factor analysis of the English and Malay version yielded 3 factors with groups of items viz. Oral Health Knowledge (OHK), Perception of Teacher’s Roles as Oral Health Promoters (PoR) and Oral Health Practice and Related Behaviours (OHPB), respectively. For the English version, the Cronbach’s alpha coefficients for the three factors were 0.72, 0.70 and 0.30 respectively. The Kappa coefficients were 0.60, 0.64 and 0.72 respectively (intraclass correlation coefficients = 0.84, 0.84 and 0.94). For the Malay version, the Cronbach’s alpha coefficients for the three factors were 0.67, 0.71 and 0.42 respectively. The Kappa coefficients were 0.55, 0.63 and 0.70 respectively (intraclass correlation coefficients = 0.82, 0.61 and 0.78). The final questionnaire comprised 26 items, i.e. 13 for OHK, 6 items for PoR and 7 items for OHPB respectively.

Conclusion: The questionnaires (English and Malay versions) to measure preschool teachers’ oral health knowledge, practice and perceptions of their roles as oral health promoters were successfully developed and empirically validated to be valid and reliable for use by preschool teachers in NOHPS 2015.

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