Results: The research based on normality test results using the Shapiro-Wilk method toward the treatment group and the control group gained sig> 0.05, and p value 0.000 (<0.05), it indicates that there was a minimum significant change between the two research groups.

Conclusions: The analysis result reveals that the use of instructional media such as picture story books and stacking words and pictures game for the deaf children related to dental and oral health issues considered effective in changing the child's knowledge of the deaf child.

Keywords: the deaf child, pictures book, stacking words and pictures game

Association Between Personality Traits and Stress Levels Among Senior Dental Students: Evidence from Southeast Asia

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Objective: To evaluate the association between dental students' personality traits and stress levels in relation to dental programs among senior dental students in University Malaya (UM) in Malaysia and National University of Singapore (NUS).

Methods: A cross-sectional survey using a self-administered questionnaire was conducted on senior dental students in UM and NUS. The questionnaire comprised items on demographic information, the Big Five Inventory (BFI) Personality Traits test and a modified Dental Environment Stress (DES) scale. Data were analysed using SPSS version 17.0 and WINSTEPS. Rasch analysis, t-test, Pearson Correlation and Hierarchical regression statistics were used for data analysis.

Results: The response rate was 100% (UM=132, NUS=76). In UM, Agreeableness was the most prevalent personality trait with mean score (0.30, sd=0.41) significantly higher than that among NUS students (p=0.016). In NUS, it was Neuroticism with mean score (0.36, sd=0.49) significantly higher than that in UM (p=0.002). The DES mean score was higher among NUS (mean=0.23, sd=0.78) than UM students (mean=0.07, sd=0.99). In UM, Neuroticism (r=0.338, p<0.001) was significantly correlated with stress levels while in NUS, these were Neuroticism (r=0.278, p=0.015), Agreeableness (r=0.250, p=0.029) and Conscientiousness (r=-0.242, p=0.035) personality traits. The correlation was strongest for personality trait Neuroticism in both schools. Hierarchical regression showed that gender and Neuroticism were significant predictors for stress levels with the latter showed relatively bigger effect size (R²=0.18, gender R²=0.04)

Conclusions: Certain types of students' personality traits were significantly associated with students' stress levels.

Keywords: dental students, personality traits, Southeast Asia, stress