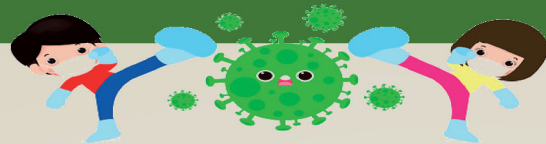


Impact of lockdown and inter-related factors on oral health practices and eating habits of children in Gurugram city, India



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PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

- TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN ON DIETARY HABITS AND ORAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AGED 4 TO 12 YEARS LIVING IN GURUGRAM CITY.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVE

- TO ASSESS THE ASSOCIATION OF FACTORS SUCH AS BEHAVIOUR PROFILE AND LIFESTYLE CHANGES DURING LOCKDOWN WITH THE ORAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN.

INTRODUCTION: The new routine, work-at-home for parents, remote classes for children, and economic instability have contributed to changes in dietary habits and sedentary lifestyle. During lockdown family connections are disrupted, external support is lacking, and families put much energy into balancing childcare, education, and schooling support on one hand, and into work responsibilities on the other hand. It is clear that all these factors together can negatively affect children, with an enduring impact on their oral as well as mental health.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

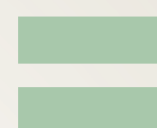
Oral health related knowledge of the parents was assessed using a valid and reliable self-administered questionnaire



22 questions were applied to 250 parents of children aged 4–12 years

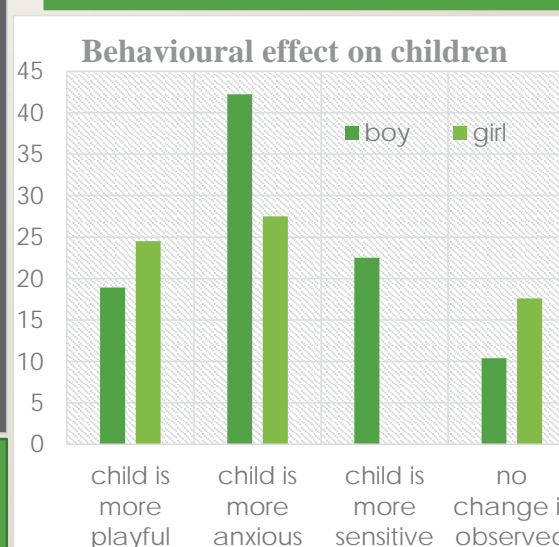
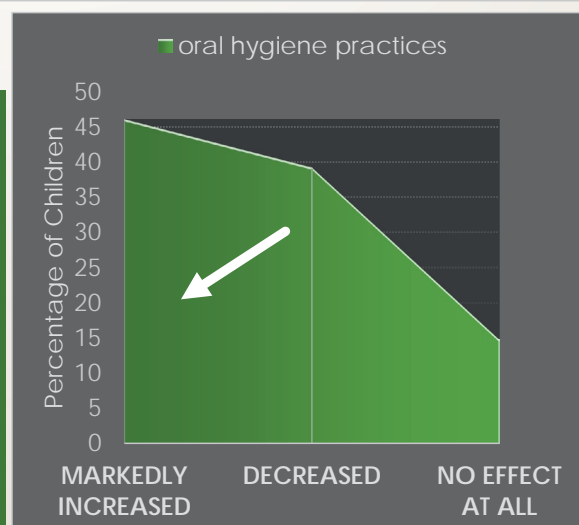
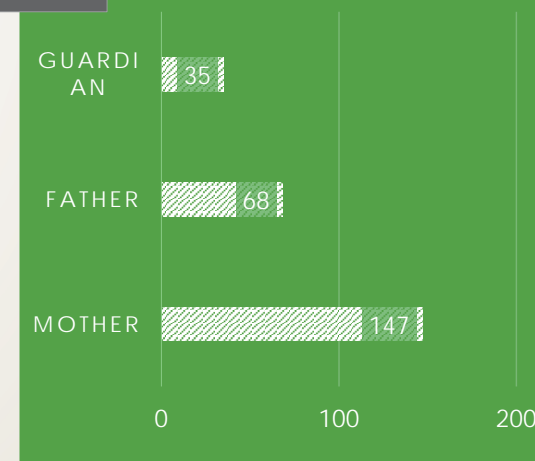
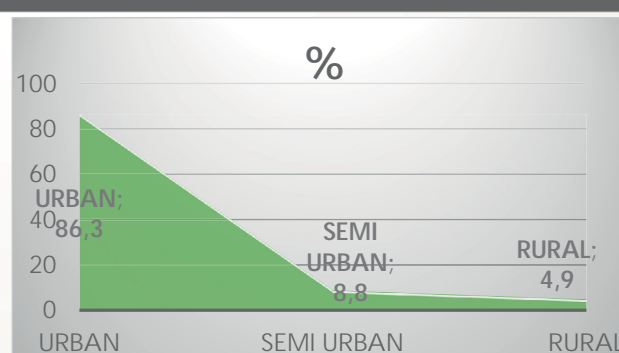
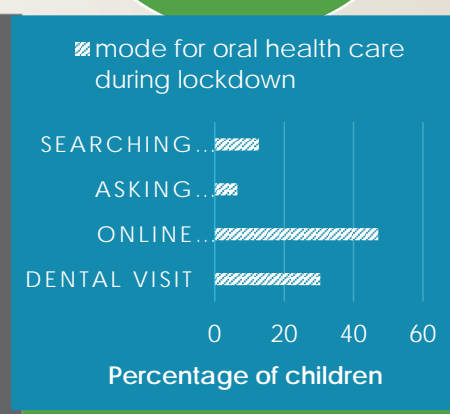
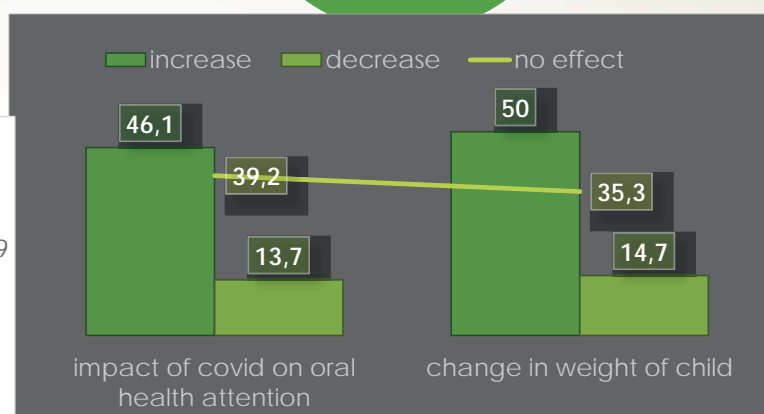
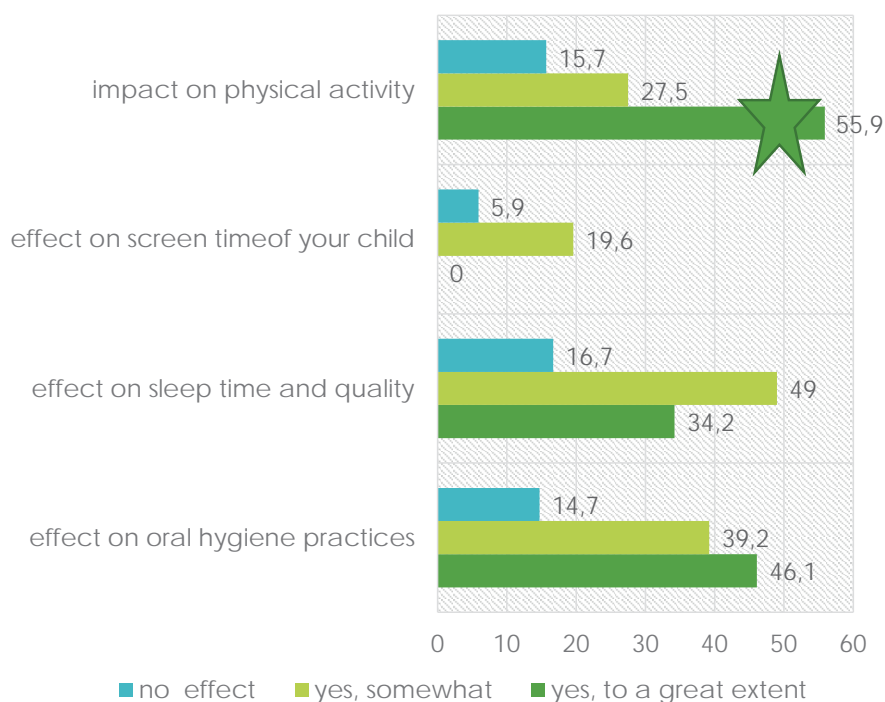


The questions addressed topics regarding changes in daily routine and oral health of children during the pandemic



Data analysis included the description of the relative and absolute frequencies of the variables

RESULTS



CONCLUSION: The present study concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the eating habits and dental care of children in Gurugram city, India. Furthermore, it has triggered moderate and high levels of fear among parents/caregivers. As an alternative to offer dental assistance during these unusual times, future studies should evaluate the effectiveness of 'Teledentistry'.

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