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پدید آورنده : محمد رضا امیرآبادی

رشته تحصیلی : دندانپزشکی تکمیلی

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چکیده :

The study intended to investigate the self esteem of grade school pupils with severe dental caries. The researcher wanted to know if the self esteem of the grade school pupils is affected by the severity of their dental caries. Convenience sampling technique was utilized in selecting respondents. The respondents in the study were 39 grade school pupils in Cecilio Apostol Elementary School located at Caloocan City. It employed quantitative descriptive research design. Respondents' age ranged from 8 to 12 years old, from grade one to grade six, 16 are male and 23 are female. Mouth examination was conducted to gather data regarding dental caries of the respondents and checklist which exerted from Cooper Smith Self-Esteem Inventory was used to know their self-esteem. The result revealed that severity of dental caries of male and female respondents was very low while in accordance to grade level, grades two, three and five have very low while grades one, four and six have low severity of dental caries. Only two respondents revealed to have high severity of dental caries while their self-esteem inventory results that they have somewhat above average self-esteem. It seemed that the self-esteem of these two respondents is not affected by their dental caries. With a =0.05, domain of self-esteem: general self-esteem, social peers, home parents, lie scale and school academic is not significantly related with the age and even the gender of the respondents. However, domains home parent ($p=0.035$) and lie scale (0.008)

is significantly related with the grade level of the respondents. On the other hand, severity of dental caries and the self-esteem of the respondents revealed statistically not significantly related.