

School Dental Preventive Program in National Guard/Saudi Arabia

Abeer Alsubait

Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs, Saudi Arabia

School dental preventive program SDPP is a recent established dental preventive program occurred in Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs Saudi Arabia to provide preventive and curative care to the school going age children. SDPP has started in 2007 and is providing education, preventive and curative treatment to more than 15000 children. The program also includes school surveys and education about healthy nutrition programs by rationalizing the consumption of sugar and the quality of food provided to children in schools and reducing sugars and sugar-sweetened beverages. As well as fluoride and pit and fissure sealants and restorations for decayed teeth along with teaching proper brushing technique. SDPP encourages the effective use of portable dental units for the delivery of preventive care to children in schools without the need for children to go to dental clinics.

The program consist of four well prepared mobile clinics each one contain two well-equipped clinics with latest materials, in addition to clinics in king Abdul-Aziz medical city that receive difficult cases for comprehensive dental care that cannot be treated in mobile clinics.

SDPP works as a team which includes a director which supervise the whole structure. Under the supervision of director there come unit head male and female, operational manager and reasearch assistant unit. Under the unit head six general dentists (3 males, 3 females), male and female hygienist and eight dental assistant(4 males and 4 females). Operational manager looks after all the senitary and hygiene related staff.

After taking permission from school heads and the consent from the parents the team visits each school in morning and the minimum time to complete all the activities in one school takes 2-3 weeks at least. Each dentist looks pre-assigned five students and provides preventive care and simple fillings and if any extensive treatment like extraction, pulpotomy, pulpectopmy or orthodontics is needed dentists referred them to SDPP clinics arranged by SDPP unit head. Each dentist is encouraged to take 30 minutes for a particular student. Special referral system is there for medically compromised students, children with developmental, learning and behavioral problems. Also the referral system is allocated for children with congenital or acquired dental anomalies. Dental assistants are also assigned to disinfect and clean the unit before and after any procedure. Also, there is daily statistic sheet filled by the SDPP unit head.

Biography:

Dr. Abeer Al Subait Consultant in Advanced general dentistry in King Abdulaziz Medical City, Ministry of National Guard, she got her master degree in public health from King Saud bin Abdulaziz university for health science, she is a lecturer in college of dentistry in king Saud bin Abdulaziz university for health science, currently she is a Director of School dental prevention Program in health affairs, ministry of national Guard, she participated in many social educational and oral health campaines activities, also she multiple published articles.