Predictors of oral health-related quality of life in 2-5 year-old children in the South of Iran

Masoumeh Abbasi-Shavazi, Elham Mansoorian, Sara Jambarsang, Amene Hosseini-Yekani, Vahid Rahmanian

Abstract

Dental and oral diseases can have negative impacts on children's quality of life. The aim of this study was to determine the predictors of oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) in the children aged 2–5 years old.

Materials and methods

A total number of 288 children aged between 2 and 5 years were selected and stratified by gender from three community health centres located in the city of Jahrom, south of Fars Province, Iran. The data collection tool was a researcher-made questionnaire whose validity and reliability was confirmed. The questionnaire was completed by parents/caregivers of the children. A multiple linear regression analysis was performed with quality of life as the dependent variable and, based on covariance structural analysis, evaluated the goodness of fit of the resulting structural equations models.

Results

The results showed that predisposing factors with a coefficient of 0.0457 ($p = 0.015$) and reinforcing factors ones with a coefficient of 0.2748 ($p < 0.001$) were correlated with the oral health behaviours. Moreover, there was a relationship between such behaviours with a coefficient of 0.1612 ($p < 0.001$) and oral health status and the given status with a coefficient − 0.9714 was correlated with OHRQoL ($p < 0.001$). Based on the covariance structural analysis, the resulting model was found to exhibit a reasonable goodness of fit.

Conclusion

The predictors of the children's OHRQoL included predisposing, strengthening, oral health behaviours and oral health status. Therefore, planning to enhance supportive family behaviours and to boost predisposing factors including knowledge, attitudes, perceived benefits, and self-efficacy in parents and their oral health behaviours is recommended.