

Effectiveness of an educational program based on narrative strategy in promoting awareness of oral health from the third grade students at UNRWA schools*

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Abstract

This quasi experimental study was applied in Jordan in 2011, in order to investigate the effectiveness of an educational program based on narrative strategy in promoting students' awareness of oral health for the third grade students in UNRWA schools. The study consisted of (179) students. The sample was divided randomly into three groups: control, first experimental and second experimental groups. A narrative program without pictures was applied to the first experimental group, and a narrative program with pictures was applied to the second experimental group. While the control group did not receive any training in this regard.

* For the paper in Arabic see pages (167-197)

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The Oral health awareness questionnaire was constructed and applied for all groups before and after implementation of the program. The study showed:

-Positive impact of narrative program on the students' knowledge of oral health for the experimental groups compared with the control group.

-Average score for narrative without pictures group was higher than that with pictures, but the difference is not statistically significant. Narrative program accounted for 13.4% of the variance in the results of students' knowledge in oral health.

-A significant impact in the behavior of the first experimental group on dental hygiene and healthy eating compared with other groups was shown, while the program had limited impact on students' attitudes toward visiting the dentist.

-No significant relationship between students' oral health awareness and sex of the student was shown.

-There was a statistically significant interaction between sex and narrative program on the students' knowledge of oral health. The study recommends the application of narrative strategy in class teaching, and in health education programs, besides working with community to educate mothers to gain knowledge, attitudes and healthy habits related to oral health because mothers are responsible for the health of their children.