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**Comparative study of decayed, missing and filled teeth (D.M.F.T.) among 12 year old, children attending Government and Private Schools in the Gampaha M.O.H. area. MSc.(Community Dentistry) - 1997 D 611**

This study was undertaken in 1997, in Gampaha MOH area to compare the decayed, missing and failed teeth among 12 year old children attending government and private schools. Two studies, a clinical and a questionnaire were undertaken simultaneously to obtain data. The diagnostic criteria was adhered to the standards set by WHO (1996). Caries prevalence by DMFT was compared between two groups and between sex. Variables taken into analysis were, frequency of sweets consumptions, time of sweets consumption, frequency of tooth brushing, time of tooth brushing mode of brushing and substance used for tooth brushing. A low value of mean caries experience was observed in private school children. Mean DMFT for government schools was 0.68 mean DMFT for private schools was 0.38. This was statistically significant. Mean caries experience of females was significantly lower than males.