



Implementation and Evaluation of a Comprehensive Dental Hygiene Curriculum in Rural Ethiopian High Schools: Impact on Oral Health Knowledge and Behaviors

Berhanu Desta^{1,2}, Mekonnen Abebe², Yimer Negash^{1,3}

¹ Bahir Dar University

² Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)

³ Mekelle University

Published: 17 February 2006 | **Received:** 05 October 2005 | **Accepted:** 09 January 2006

Correspondence: bdesta@aol.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18822192](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18822192)

Author notes

Berhanu Desta is affiliated with Bahir Dar University and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Mekonnen Abebe is affiliated with Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Yimer Negash is affiliated with Bahir Dar University and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Abstract

Rural Ethiopian high schools often lack comprehensive dental hygiene curricula, leading to poor oral health knowledge among students. A pre-post intervention design was employed, with baseline and post-intervention surveys conducted. Data analysis used t-tests for mean differences and confidence intervals for estimating effect sizes. Students showed an improvement of $\delta = 0.45$ (95% CI: 0.28-0.62) in oral health knowledge scores after the intervention, indicating a significant positive impact. The comprehensive dental hygiene curriculum led to notable improvements in students' oral health knowledge and behaviors. Schools should integrate similar curricula into their existing educational programmes to enhance oral health outcomes among rural youth. oral health, high school education, rural Ethiopia

Keywords: *African, Dental, Education, Intervention, Curriculum, Behaviour, Knowledge*

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