BASIC PACKAGE OF ORAL CARE – A tool for improving oral health of women and children

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Introduction

- The majority of the world population especially women and children are in rural and urban poor communities and are cut off from essential oral care because it is either not available or unaffordable.
- This should be everybody's concern because most oral diseases result in loss of function, loss of man hours and affect daily activities. It affects learning in children.
- The Primary Health Care (PHC) brought change to the concept of health and health care delivery by giving more priority to prevention and control of the most prevalent diseases.
- The PHC concept encourages the use of auxiliaries stationed in rural health centers to apply simple and effective measures that will improve the accessibility of health care services that is affordable for governments and the people.

Time for a change

- This is the time for a change.
- A time to adopt the philosophy of PHC with its leading principle of care for all and its emphasis on affordable and sustainable preventive and simple curative oral health services.
- This formed a guideline for the development of the "Basic Package of Oral Care" (BPOC).
- ▶ The BPOC is a package that:
- 1. creates an environment that supports oral health.
- 2. meet people's perceived needs and treatment demands relief of pain accounts for 90% of the reasons to seek help for oral health problems.

- ▶ The BPOC outlines 3 key components:
 - 1. Oral Urgent Treatment (OUT) an on demand service providing basic emergency oral care.
 - 2. Affordable Fluoride Toothpaste (AFT) promotion of access to an affordable and effective fluoride toothpaste and the promotion of twice a day toothbrushing with toothpaste.
 - 3. Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART) an appropriate treatment to prevent and stop further tooth decay, because the treatment is not limited to confines of a dental clinic.

- OUT 3 fundamental elements:
 - 1. Relief of pain
 - 2. First aid for oral infections and trauma.
 - 3. Referral of complicated cases

- AFT The use of fluoride toothpaste is the most efficient means of controlling dental caries. To get best results, certain protocols must be followed:
 - 1. AFT must be made available
 - 2. AFT must be well packaged to show fluoride concentration, other ingredients, life span, direction for use.
 - 3. Monitoring of fluoride content by independent laboratory.
 - 4. Tax free AFT

- ART is a simple technique of removing decayed part of a tooth using hand instruments and filling the cavity with an adhesive material containing fluoride. It achieves the following:
 - 1. providing simple restorative care
 - 2. a preventive and curative approach.
 - 3. usually painless because no injection required.
 - 4. can be performed by trained auxiliaries.
 - 5. requires less technological input.
 - 6. can be performed outside the traditional dental clinic.

Conclusion – Fewer dentists serve a larger population necessitating the involvement of dental auxiliaries in the treatment of patients under supervision by dentists. The BPOC is a tool that will improve the oral health of women and children, who form a large part of the population, especially in underserved communities. It is cost effective and efficient as little resources is needed to achieve great result.

Thank you for your attentionDANKE!