Comparative Assessment of Oral Health Status between Orphanage raised and Family
 raised Children of Lucknow City: A Cross- Sectional Study

4 **Running Title:** Oral Health of Orphanage and Family- Raised Children

5 Abstract

Background: Despite sufficient support, lack of parental care make orphanage raised children
vulnerable to various health and psychological problems. Health problems like nutritional
deficiencies, compromised oral health and various psychological conditions are the common
problems in these children. Considering the various problems faced by orphanage raised
children the study is designed to better assess the facts and status of oral health and quality of
life in these children.

12 Aims & Objective: 1. To assess and compare the oral health status in orphanage raised and 13 family raised children of Lucknow City. 2.To compare BMI and correlate with oral health 14 among these children.

Methodology: Eight Hundred Seventy children (342 Family raised and 528 Orphanage raised) were included according to inclusion and exclusion criteria in the study, after obtaining written consent and institutional ethical approval. Comprehensive oral examination was done according to WHO criteria.

Results: Results showed statistically significant poor oral hygiene, higher DMFT score and
lower BMI in orphanages raised children. There was no correlation between BMI and DMFT
/OHI scores in both the groups.

22 Conclusion: In conclusion, our study highlights the compromised oral health status of23 orphanage children compared to family-raised children.

24 Key Words: Orphan, Oral Health, Family raised children, BMI

25 Introduction

Based on definition, orphans are children under the age of 18 years old who have lost 26 their mother or father or both.^[1] Many children lose their families due to issues such as 27 financial poverty, cultural problems, mental health, or other factors and encounter difficult 28 situations as family deprivation and poor living conditions.^[2,3] Though the children get 29 protection, food, and shelter in orphanages, they meet with problematic hygiene, nutritional 30 deficiencies, compromised oral health and psychological conditions due to lack of parental 31 support and care. ^[4,5,6] Dental caries, periodontal and gingival problems are the most common 32 oral conditions. [4, 7]33

Considering this present study was conducted to assess and compare the oral health status and BMI (Body mass index) in family raised children and children living in orphanages of Lucknow city.

37 Materials And Methods

The cross-sectional study was conducted on 870 participants aged 3-16 years, who were selected in the camps that were organised at both orphanages and primary schools. The study was conducted from July 2023 to July 2024. Written informed consent was taken from the parents, school principal and orphanages authorities prior to start observations or examinations. Institutional ethical approval (BBDCODS/IEC/09/2022 dated 16/9/22) was obtained prior to start the study.

44 The sample size for the present study was calculated on the basis of proportion of45 unfavorable oral health among orphan and non-orphan groups using the formula:

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$$n = d \left(\frac{z_{\alpha} + z_{\beta}}{\ln(1 - e)} \right)^2 \left[\frac{1 - p_1}{p_1} + \frac{1 - p_2}{p_2} \right]$$

47 Where $p_1 = 0.88$ (88%) proportion of unfavorable oral health among orphan group 48 $p_2 = 0.33$ (33%) proportion of unfavorable oral health among non-orphan group ^[8]

- 49 $e = 0.6(p_1 p_2).$
- 50 The proportion difference considered to be clinically significant

51 d = 2.0, the design effect

- 52 Type I error α =5 %, for the significance level of 95%.
- 53 Type II error β =10 %, for detecting the results with 90% power of study,
- 54 The minimum sample size required n = 340 each group

55 The study sample consisted of two groups based on the upbringing environment. Both orphanage and family raised children were similar in gender distribution and mean age. The 56 exclusion criteria were age less than three years and more than 16 years, lack of cooperation 57 58 in the examination, systemic disorders, mental or other behavioural disorders. According to inclusion criteria all children of both sex who were in good health, Children between the age 59 of 3-16 years and Children who were cooperative were included in the study. Children who 60 were not physically participating, had enamel/dental defects other than dental caries, and were 61 suspected of having a chronic medical condition (constant use of sugar-containing drugs is 62 63 mandatory) were excluded.

Intraoral examinations were performed by a trained examiner (postgraduate student)
 using a mouth mirror and personal protective barriers (gloves and masks). The data were
 recorded on a standard format. Decayed, Missing, Filled Teeth/Surfaces (DMFT/DMFS) score

of teeth was recorded as per World Health Organization (WHO) criteria including the indices 67 of for the permanent teeth and the decayed, missing and filled teeth/surfaces (dmft/dmfs) for 68 the primary teeth. T-test was used to analyze DMFT/DMFS, dmft/dmfs and OHI-S scores. 69 Other soft tissue/hard tissue findings of the oral cavity were recorded according to the pre-set 70 format. As per the World Health Organization (WHO), the anthropometric measurement 71 method of BMI calculation was used for body weight and height measurements using a digital 72 scale of 150 kg and 200 cm of tape. The height of the body is measured with subjects wearing 73 no shoes and their heads contacting the ruler with their line of sight horizontally aligned. As 74 per WHO, the BMI scores are as follows: underweight (18.5), average weight (18.5-24.99), 75 overweight (>25), and obese (>30). ^[9] The BMI and oral health status assessments were 76 analysed according to aims and objectives of the study. Results were calculated and analysed 77 with suitable statistical tests. 78

Results were calculated using chi square test for group distributions and associations,
ANOVA for correlation between BMI, DMFT and OHI scores and MANN Whitney test to
compare BMI in the groups.

82 **Results**

1.Sample Distribution: A total 870 children were included in the study. 528 individuals
(60.7%) were raised in an orphanage, while 342 individuals (39.3%) were family-raised.
(Table 1, Figure 1)

86 2. Age distribution of the Study Groups

Among children aged three 3-9 years, 372 (70.5%) were from orphanages, while only 138 (40.4%) were family-raised. In contrast, in the 10–16 years age group, 156 (29.5%) were from orphanages compared to 204 (59.6%) from family settings. The chi-square analysis indicated 90 a statistically significant difference in age distribution between the two groups ($\chi^2 = 77.54$, p < 91 0.001) (**Table 2, Figure 2**)

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93 **3. Sample distribution according to Sex**

The sex distribution between orphanage and family-raised groups showed a significant difference. Among those in orphanages, 248 (47.0%) were male and 280 (53.0%) were female. In contrast, within the family-raised group, 189 (55.3%) were male and 153 (44.7%) were female. The chi-square test revealed a statistically significant association between sex and upbringing environment ($\chi^2 = 5.71$, p = 0.017), indicating that males were more prevalent in the family-raised group, while females were more predominant in the orphanage group. (**Table 3, Figure 3**)

101 4. Oral Hygiene Status

In the orphanage group, 236 (44.7%) individuals had good oral hygiene, 180 (34.1%) had fair hygiene, and 112 (21.2%) had poor hygiene. Conversely, in the family-raised group, 156 (45.6%) had good oral hygiene, 163 (47.7%) had fair hygiene, and only 23 (6.7%) had poor hygiene. The chi-square test showed a highly significant association ($\chi^2 = 37.81$, p < 0.001).

106 (**Table 4, Figure 4**)

107 5. Intergroup Comparison of Orthodontic Problems

108 The occurrence of orthodontic problems showed no significant difference between orphanage 109 and family-raised groups. Among the orphanage group, 50 (9.5%) individuals had orthodontic 110 problems, while 478 (90.5%) did not. In the family-raised group, 28 (8.2%) had orthodontic 111 issues, and 314 (91.8%) did not. The chi-square test result ($\chi^2 = 0.42$, p = 0.518) indicates that there was no statistically significant association between living environment and the presence

113 of orthodontic problems. (Table 5, Figure 5)

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116 6. Intergroup Comparison of Dental Carries

The orphanage group exhibited higher DMFT score for both primary and permanent teeth with mean score $(2.3 \pm 1.5 \text{ and } 2.7)$ than the family-raised group (2.0 and 1.5 ± 0.9), with a z-value of 5.924 and a p-value of <0.001. (Table 6, Figure 6)

120 7. Intergroup Comparison of BMI

The comparison of Body Mass Index (BMI) between orphanage and family-raised children, analysed using the Mann-Whitney test, showed a significant difference. The mean BMI for children in the orphanage group was 15.67 ± 1.71 , whereas the family-raised group had a higher mean BMI of 16.24 ± 2.71 . The test yielded a z-value of 3.783 with a p-value of 0.001, indicating a statistically significant difference. (**Table 7, Figure 7**)

126 8.Correlation of DMFT Score with BMI

The correlation analysis between Body Mass Index (BMI) and dental caries, measured by DMFT scores (Decayed, Missing, and Filled Teeth), revealed weak and non-significant associations in both orphanage and family-raised groups. For permanent teeth, the overall correlation showed an r-value of -0.055 with a p-value of 0.181, indicating no significant relationship. Similarly, in the orphanage group, the r-value was -0.007 (p = 0.910), and in the family-raised group, it was -0.069 (p = 0.230), both showing no significant correlation. For primary teeth, the overall correlation had an r-value of -0.040 (p = 0.391), with the orphanage group showing an almost negligible r-value of 0.002 (p = 0.977), and the family-raised group also exhibiting no significant relationship (r = -0.002, p = 0.968). (**Table 8**)

136 9. Correlation of BMI with OHIS

The analysis of the relationship between oral hygiene status and Body Mass Index (BMI) using ANOVA revealed no significant differences across the groups. Overall, individuals with good oral hygiene had a mean BMI of 15.81 ± 2.22 , those with fair hygiene had a mean BMI of 16.03 ± 2.16 , and those with poor hygiene had a mean BMI of $15.81 \pm$ 2.07. The overall F-value was 1.03 with a p-value of 0.359, indicating no statistically significant difference.

In the orphanage group, the BMI for individuals with good, fair, and poor oral hygiene was 15.59 ± 1.66 , 15.78 ± 1.64 , and 15.67 ± 1.92 respectively, with an F-value of 0.59 and a p-value of 0.556, showing no significant variation.

Similarly, in the family-raised group, those with good oral hygiene had a BMI of 16.14
± 2.85, fair hygiene had 16.30 ± 2.60, and poor hygiene had 16.50 ± 2.65. The F-value of 0.26
and p-value of 0.775 also indicated no significant differences. (Table 9, Figure8)

149 **Discussion**

Oral health is an essential component of general health and well-being, particularly in children, as it influences their nutrition, growth, self-esteem, and quality of life. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines oral health as a state of being free from chronic mouth and facial pain, oral and throat cancer, oral infection and sores, periodontal disease, tooth decay, tooth loss, and other diseases and disorders that limit an individual's capacity in biting, chewing, smiling, speaking, and psychosocial well-being (WHO, 2012). ^[10] In children, oral diseases such as dental caries, gingivitis, and malocclusion are common and, if left untreated,can have detrimental effects on physical and psychological development.

158 Multiple factors contribute to the oral health status of children, including genetic predisposition, socioeconomic status, dietary habits, oral hygiene practices, access to dental 159 services, and parental or caregiver involvement (Petersen & Kwan, 2010).^[11] In the absence 160 of a stable family environment, orphaned children are often deprived of consistent supervision 161 and care regarding their oral health practices, exacerbating their risk of developing dental 162 problems. Children in orphanages often face many barriers to oral healthcare, including 163 financial constraints of the institution, absence of routine dental check-ups, and limited 164 availability of dental care facilities, particularly in rural or underdeveloped areas. 165 166 Additionally, orphanage staff may lack adequate training in paediatric oral health management, resulting in inconsistent or insufficient supervision of oral hygiene practices 167 among the children. 168

Present study was attempted to identify the Oral health status in orphanage children as compare to family raised children. Our study corroborates earlier research by demonstrating that children living in orphanages have a higher prevalence of dental caries, poor oral hygiene status, and lower body mass index (BMI) compared to family-raised children.

Total 872 children were included in the study. This distribution of sample subjects highlighted a higher representation of participants from orphanage settings compared to those raised in a family environment, the distribution was justified statistically as the calculated sample size was 340 subjects(minimum) in each group. The age distribution of participants revealed significant differences between the orphanage and family-raised groups. There were more elder age group (7-16) children in family raised group whereas the orphanage children group consisted more younger group children. We found a highly significant association between OHI score and both the study groups indicating that poor oral hygiene was notably more prevalent among those in orphanages compared to family-raised children. Vinay Suresan et al 2021 also found poor oral hygiene status among orphans in their study. ^[12]

The DMFT score comparison suggested that orphanage children have a significantly higher prevalence of dental caries in both permanent and primary teeth compared to those raised in family environments. Similialy Nagwa Mohamed Ali Khattab and Mennat Allah Ashraf Abd-Elsabour (2023) also reported significantly high caries index in the governmental orphanage in their study. ^[13]

A study by Rao et al. (2016) similarly observed a higher prevalence of dental caries and gingival diseases in institutionalized children than in children living with their families in India. The lack of individualized attention in maintaining oral hygiene routines, irregular access to dental care services, and inadequate oral health education programs within orphanage settings contribute substantially to this disparity. ^[14]

In both the groups there was no significant difference in orthodontic problems. Fewstudies had suggested high prevalence of oral habits and malocclusion in orphanage children.

Our study showed that orphanage children had significantly lower BMI values compared to 196 family raised group. This finding was in accordance with studies by Naveen et al (2015) and 197 Dosumu et al. (2013), ^[15, 16] which reported a significant association between low BMI and 198 poor oral health status in institutionalized children. In present study there was no significant 199 correlation found between BMI and DMFT and OHI scores in either group. Contradictory 200 Kunal Jha (2022) et al found that there was a significant correlation between the OHI and DC 201 in their study. ^[17] Few studies showed mixed correlation between BMI and oral health 202 status. [18, 19] 203

The findings of our study clearly showed that children residing in orphanages exhibit 204 significantly compromised oral health status as compared to their counterparts raised in 205 family environments. This disparity may be attributed to multiple interrelated factors, 206 including lack of oral health awareness, nutritional deficiencies, and insufficient 207 psychological and emotional support that typically characterizes a familial setting. 208 Psychological and emotional well-being has been identified as a significant determinant of 209 oral health behaviour and outcomes in children. Family environments typically provide 210 emotional support, affection, and positive reinforcement that encourage the adoption of 211 healthy habits, including proper oral hygiene practices (Locker, 2000). ^[20] Converselv. 212 orphanage children often experience emotional neglect, stress, and low self-esteem, which 213 may manifest as neglect of personal hygiene, including oral care. 214

Lack of details regarding comprehensive diet history, analysis of psychological component and oral health knowledge among children and their parents/ caretakers can be considered as drawback of our study, yet the study reflects light on the demand of orphan children for regular professional dental care.

Oral health awareness is a key modifiable determinant of oral health status. In family settings, 219 220 parents and guardians play a pivotal role in educating children about proper oral hygiene practices, dietary habits, and the importance of regular dental visits. In contrast, children in 221 orphanages often lack access to consistent oral health education programs. For instance, a 222 223 study by Petersen et al. (2004) in Kenya demonstrated that regular oral health education significantly reduced the prevalence of dental caries and improved oral hygiene among school 224 children.^[21] Implementing similar programs in orphanage settings could potentially mitigate 225 the disparities in oral health outcomes observed in our study. 226

Timely access to professional dental care is essential for the prevention, early detection, and 227 management of oral diseases in children. Family-raised children typically benefit from 228 parental supervision and facilitation of dental visits. In contrast, orphanage children often lack 229 such facilitation due to financial constraints, logistical difficulties, and the prioritization of 230 other health concerns over dental care within institutional settings. Studies by Ramazani 231 (2014) and Kumar et al. (2016) have reported low utilization rates of dental services among 232 institutionalized children, contributing to the accumulation of untreated dental caries and 233 other oral health problems. ^[22,23] Integrating dental services into routine healthcare programs 234 for orphanages and establishing partnerships with dental schools and community health 235 centres could enhance access to preventive and curative oral healthcare for these children. 236

The findings of our study emphasize the urgent need for policy interventions and programmatic strategies aimed at improving the oral health status of orphanage children. Key recommendations may include: Implementation of Institution-based Regular Oral Health Screening Programs and Nutritional Support Programs, and training of Caregivers and Orphanage Staff.

242 Conclusion

In conclusion, our study highlights the compromised oral health status of orphanage children 243 compared to family-raised children, attributed primarily to lack of awareness, nutritional 244 245 deficiencies, and the absence of familial psychological support. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach encompassing government policies and recommendations 246 247 for oral health education, improved access to dental care, nutritional support, and psychosocial interventions. Future research should explore the long-term impact of targeted 248 oral health interventions in institutional/orphanages settings and develop evidence-based 249 models for promoting oral health equity among vulnerable child populations. 250

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Group	No.	%
Group A Orphanage	528	60.7%
oroup in orphanage	520	00.770
Group B		
	342	39.3%
Family raised		

Table 1: Distribution of Cases according to Group

	Orpha	anage	Family	raised	Significance	
Age						
	No.	%	No.	%	chi sq	p-value
3 - 9 years	372	70.5%	138	40.4%	77.54	<0.001



						339	
	Orpha	anage	Family	raised	Significance		
Sex							
						340	
	No.	%	No.	%	chi sq	p-value	
						341	
Male	248	47.0%	189	55.3%			
					5.71	0.0 <u>1</u> <u>7</u> ₂	
	280	53.0%	153	44.7%			
						343	

Table 3: Groupwise Distribution of Sex

Oral Hygiene	Orphanage		Family raised		Significance	
Status	No.	%	No.	%	chi sq	p-value
Good	236	44.7%	156	45.6%	37.81	<0.001

Fair	180	34.1%	163	47.7%	
Poor	112	21.2%	23	6.7%	

Table 4: Intergroup Comparison of OHI

Orthodontic	Orphanage		Family raised		Significance		
problem	No.	%	No.	%	chi sq	p-value	
Present	50	9.5%	28	8.2%			
					0.42	0.518	
Not Present	478	90.5%	314	91.8%			

Table 5: Intergroup Comparison of Orthodontic Problem

350	0	Orpha	nage	Family	raised	Mann V	Whitney
	Dental Caries		U	5		te	est
351	$\langle \rangle$	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	z-value	n-value
352		Ivicali	50	Ivicali	50	Z-value	p-value
353	DMFT	2.7	2.1	2.0	1.2	4.993	<0.001
254	(i crimanent)						
354	DMFT	2.3	1.5	1.5	.9	5.924	<0.001
	(Primary)						
352 353 354	DMFT (Permanent) DMFT (Primary)	2.7	2.1	2.0	.9	4.993 5.924	<0.

Table 6: Intergroup Comparison of Dental Caries

	1		1	356
	BI	MI	Mann Wh	nitney test
				•
Dental Carles				357
	Mean	SD	z-value	p-value
				358
Orphanage	15.67	1.71		
			3.783	0.001 359
Family raised	16.24	2.71		
				360
				361



Correlation with	Ove	erall	Orphanage		Family Raised		
BMI							
Divit	r-value	p-value	r-value	p-value	r-value	p-value	Ν
DMFT							
	055	.181	007	.910	069	.230	308
(PERMANENT)							
DMFT (primary)	040	.391	.002	.977	002	.968	303

Table 8: Correlation of DMFT Score with BMI

	Oral		BMI	ANOVA			
Group	Hygiene						
	Status	Mean	SD	F-value	p-value		
	Good	15.81	2.22				
Overall	Fair	16.03	2.16	1.03	0.359		
	Poor	15.81	2.07				
	Good	15.59	1.66		\mathcal{I}		
Orphanage	Fair	15.78	1.64	0.59	0.556		
	Poor	15.67	1.92				
	Good	16.14	2.85				
	Fair	16.30	2.60	0.26	0.775		
	Poor	16.50	2.65				

 Table 9: Correlation of BMI with OHIS

 Figures

















Figure 5: Intergroup Comparison of Orthodontic Problem



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Figure 6: Intergroup Comparison of Dental Caries







Figure 7: Intergroup Comparison of BMI





399 List of Abbreviations:

Abbreviation	Definition
1.BMI	Body Mass Index
2.DMFT	Decayed, Missing, Filled Teeth
3.WHO	World Health Organisation
4. BBDCODS	Babu Banarasi Das College of dental sciences
5. DMFS	Decayed, Missing, Filled Surfaces
6. IEC	Institutional Ethical Committe
7. OHI	Oral hygiene index
8. OHI-S	Oral hygiene index-Simplified
9. ANOVA	Analysis of Variance

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Contribution Details:

Role (Design intelle investi manus etc.)	Concepts, n, Definition of ctual content, igation, script writing,	Contributor	Contributor 2	Contributor 3	Contributor 4	Contributor 5	Contributor 6
1.	Concepts & Design	Dr. Vandana Singh					
2.	Definition of intellectual content		Dr. Subash Singh				
3.	Manuscript writing	Dr. Vandana Singh		Dr. Sonalika Srivastava			
4.	Investigation				Dr. Ayushi Bhardwaj		

- 407 Ethical policy and Institutional Review board statement: Institutional ethical approval
- 408 (BBDCODS/IEC/09/2022 dated 16/9/22) was obtained prior to start the study.
- 409 Patient declaration of consent statement: Written informed consent was taken from the
- 410 parents, school principal and orphanages authorities prior to start observations or
- 411 examinations.
- 412 Data Availability statement: N/A