

PREVALENCE OF HEAD LICE INFESTATION AND ITS ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN KUWAIT

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ABSTRACT

*This study was undertaken to assess the prevalence of head lice (*Pediculus capitis*) infestation among students in Kindergarten and primary schools in the six governorates of Kuwait. The descriptive survey design was adopted. The students who involved in this study were (233 in Kindergarten and 579 in primary schools) from both sexes across the six governorates. A structured questionnaire was distributed to the student parents to be filled. Data were analyzed using chi-square test of independence. The results showed that 46.2% (375/812) of students were infected with higher infestation rate observed among girls (50.4%) in comparison to boys (37.5%). The intensity of infestation was ranging from 6-10lice per student. Students from Al-Ahmadi governorate showed the highest infection rate. Nationality and mother education level were risk factors as the Saudi, Pakistani or Indian students and the students of mothers with low educational level were highly infested. Climate had also an influence in the prevalence of head lice as higher infestation was observed in hot season. This study revealed that the prevalence of head lice infestation was high in Kuwait and should be controlled by the co-operation between school, home, and ministry of health.*

KEYWORDS: *Factors, Head Lice, Kindergarten, Kuwait, Prevalence, Primary*

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