# Validation and Reliability of Questionnaire Evaluating the Role of Feeding Practices and Maternal Influences on Early Childhood Caries amongst 2 to 6 Year Old Children in Kolkata, West Bengal

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Abstract: <u>Aim</u>: The aim of the study was to check the validity and reliability of questionnaire evaluating the role of feeding practices and maternal influences on Early Childhood Caries. <u>Materials and Methods</u>: A pilot study was done with participants, including boys and girls, who visited the outpatient department. Children between the ages 2 to 6 years were included in the study. Parents filled up the questionnaire which consisted of 22 items. The English version of the questionnaire was formulated through various literature reviews and was sent to a bilingual teacher for translation into Bengali(V1) and Hindi(V2). After that, questionnaire was sent to bilingual teacher for any semantic correction and made idiosyncratic variants. The scale was then back translated into the original language. Data were tabulated and analyzed and the statistical methods used were Cronbachs alpha, Inter-observer reliability and Content validity ratio. <u>Results</u>: Content Validity Ratio ranged is within the acceptable limit. For Intra-class correlation coefficient questions showed showed good reliability. Cronbach's alpha indicates the questionnaire has overall good validity and reliability. <u>Conclusion</u>: The questionnaire is a simple and valid scale which can be used to evaluate the role of feeding practices and maternal influences on Early Childhood Caries.

Keywords: Early Childhood Caries, Feeding habits, Maternal influence

### 1. Introduction

According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), 2008, Early Childhood Caries (ECC) is defined as "one or more decayed (noncavitated or cavitated lesions), missing (because of caries), or filled tooth surfaces in any primary tooth in a child aged 71 months or younger. [1] Several factors are associated with Early Childhood Caries, such as child's dietary habits, oral hygiene habits, different feeding practices like bottle feeding, prolonged breast feeding for two years or more, formula feeding or combined. [2, 3]

ECC is also known as Maternally Derived Streptococcus Mutans Disease (MDSMD) which clearly shows that maternal risk factors can influence the child's oral health as well. Therefore, the mother's socioeconomic status, oral hygiene index, oral hygiene habits, education and decision making ability in the family are taken into account to check their correlation with Early Childhood Caries among

#### children. [4]

The overall prevalence of Early Childhood Caries in India is 49.6% and in West Bengal is 50.37%.[4] It is also seen that mothers practice prolonged feeding habits in Kolkata, West Bengal.

To ensure that mothers have adequate knowledge regarding the proper maintenance of oral health and feeding practices and their role in the family, a questionnaire is developed.

The present study aimed to develop and validate questionnaire to evaluate the role of feeding practices and maternal influences on Early Childhood Caries amongst 2 to 6 year old children in Kolkata, West Bengal.

### 2. Literature Survey

There are several associated risk factors with Early Childhood Caries such as different feeding practices , oral

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hygiene habits, gender, diet. It is seen that mothers in the state of West Bengal are not educated enough about the adequate feeding practice and duration of their children so the prevalence of Early Childhood Caries is high. The population in West Bengal is diverse and therefore, socioeconomic status of family, education of mother and decision making ability is taken into account and check their correlation with Early Childhood Caries among children.

## **3. Definition of Problem**

Early Childhood Caries is one of the most common oral health disease during early childhood and it causes discomfort, pain to the child, leading to masticatiory and speech problems, low self-esteem and decline in the quality of life. Several factors that influence the disease such as dietary habits, feeding habits, maternal characteristics It is important to evaluate the role of feeding practices and maternal influence on Early Childhood Caries.

## 4. Methodology Participants

A pilot study was done with participants, including boys andgirls, who visited the outpatient department of Department of Paediatric and Preventive Dentistry, Guru Nanak Institute of Dental Sciences & Research, Panihati, Sodepur, Kolkata. Children between the ages 2 to 6 years were included in the study. Parents filled up the questionnaire. Children having diagnosed with systemic diseases or mental disorders and developmental anomalies were excluded from the study.

## 5. Questionnaire

The questionnaire is formulated through various literature reviews. The questionnaire consisted of 22 items where the first five items denotes general information about the patient. The questionnaire consisted of three subscales, namely factor 1 (Decision making abilities of mother: Item 1), factor 2 (Mother's and child's oral hygiene habits: Item 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12), factor 3 (Child's feeding practices: Items 13, 14, 15, 16, 17). This is a close ended questionnaire which included options regarding the decision making ability in the family, oral hygiene habits and feeding practices.

## 6. Procedure

### 1) Assessment of Content Validity

The content validity was tested by administering the questionnaire to 10 social workers for reviewing. The social workers were provided with a 4-point content validity assessment tool to assess the relevancy of the tool. The English version of the questionnaire was formulated through various literature reviews and was sent to a bilingual teacher (English to Bengali) for translation into Bengali (version 1, V1) and (English to Hindi) for translation into Hindi (version 2, V2). After that, V1 was given to a Bengali language teacher for any semantic correction and made idiosyncratic variants (version 3, V3). In the same manner, V2 was given to a Hindi language teacher for any semantic correction and made idiosyncratic variants (version 4, V4). In collaboration with a researcher, social worker and other mental health care

professionals, V2 was compared to the final version of Bengali. The scale was then back translated into the original (English) language. In collaboration with a researcher, social worker V3 and V4 was compared to the final version of Bengali and Hindi respectively. The scale was then back translated into the original (English) language. In this sense, the intention was to reduce the ambiguity and misinterpretation, to ensure a good adaptation to the population that understands the Bengali and Hindi language.

## 2) Assessment Of Reliability

Inter – observer reliability was tested to measure reliability. Data was collected from the mothers and their children attending the Outpatient Department of the institute in the month of June and July 2022. The questionnaires were distributed among 15 mothers in the language they preferred. Same questionnaire was administered by a second investigator to the same set of parents within 2 weeks of administering the questionnaire by the first investigator.

## 7. Statistical Analysis

The tabulation of the data, generation of graphs and tables were done in Microsoft Excel. The statistical analysis was done using IBM SPSS statistics 27.0 (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA). The level of significance was fixed at p=0.05 and any value less than or equal to 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant. Content Validity Ratio, ICC and Cronbach's alpha was measured.

## **Internal Consistency**

Internal consistency refers to the degree of agreement or correlation between different items or questions within a measurement instrument, such as a questionnaire or a scale. It is a measure of the reliability of the instrument, indicating how well the items in the instrument assess the same underlying construct or concept. One common method to assess internal consistency is by using Cronbach's alpha coefficient. Cronbach's alpha is a statistic that quantifies the extent to which the items in a scale or questionnaire correlate with each other. It ranges from 0 to 1, with higher values indicating better internal consistency. (where, >0.9, Excellent; 0.9->0.8, Good; 0.8->0.7, Acceptable; 0.7- >0.6, Questionable) [5,6]

Cronbach's alpha	Internal consistency
α ≥ 0.9	Excellent
0.9 > α ≥ 0.8	Good
$0.8 > \alpha \ge 0.7$	Acceptable
$0.7 > \alpha \ge 0.6$	Questionable
$0.6 > \alpha \ge 0.5$	Poor
0.5 > α	Unacceptable

Figure 1: Internal consistency interpretation

### **Content Validity Ratio (CVR)**

Content Validity Ratio (CVR) is a statistical index used to measure the proportion of experts who agree that an item is essential in a scale or instrument used for content validity assessment. The CVR is typically calculated when a panel of experts rates each item in the scale or instrument as

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"Essential," "Useful but not essential," or "Not necessary." The formula for calculating the Content Validity Ratio is as follows:

$$CVR = (Ne - N/2) / (N/2)$$

Where:

Ne: The number of experts who rate the item as "Essential." N: The total number of experts. The scores given to the questions were-

Essential=3; Useful but not essential=2; Not necessary= 1 For validity ratio, the number of experts who rated 3 for any question were considered as Ne, 0.8 ratio were considered as acceptable. [7]

For a moderate-sized panel of experts (around 5 to 10 experts), the CVR threshold for acceptance is 0.78. This means that at least 78% of the experts must rate the item as "Essential" for content validity. In this case the number of experts were 10.

Intra-class Correlation Coefficient (ICC) -

The Intraclass Correlation Coefficient (ICC) is a statistical measure used to assess the reliability and consistency of measurements or ratings made by multiple raters or observers. ICC evaluates the proportion of total variance that is attributed to different sources of variability, such as between-rater variability and within-rater variability. It tells us how much of the total variability in the measurements can be attributed to differences between the different groups (e.g., different raters or different time points) relative to the total variability.

ICC values range from 0 to 1, with higher values indicating better agreement or reliability between raters or measurements. The interpretation of ICC values can vary depending on the context and the field of study. However, some general guidelines include:

ICC values lower than 0.5 are reflective of poor reliability, values between 0.5 and 0.75 indicate moderate reliability, values between 0.75 and 0.9 indicate good reliability, and values greater than 0.90 indicate excellent reliability. [8]

## 8. Results

#### 1) Internal Consistency

Sl No.	Dimension	Cronbach's Alpha
1.	Overall	0.805

As shown in Table I , The Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.767 depicts that the internal consistency of the questionnaire is Excellent. (where,  $\geq$ 0.9, Excellent; 0.9- $\geq$ 0.8, Good; 0.8- $\geq$ 0.7, Acceptable; 0.7- $\geq$ 0.6, Questionable)

#### 2) Construct Validity

Sl no.	Questions	Item to total correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if item removed
1	Decision making ability of family	0.368	0.801
2	Mother's last visit to dentist	0.747**	0.780
3	Mother's brushing frequency	0.797**	0.815
4	Mother's use of dental floss	0.552*	0.797
5	Mother's use of mouthwash	0.501	0.799
6	Mother's frequency of change of toothbrush	0.644**	0.776
7	Mother's oral hygiene time	0.676*	0.794
8	Child's last visit to dentist	0.743**	0.807
9	Child's brushing frequency	0.511	0.801
10	Child's use of dental floss	0.292	0.821
11	Child's change of toothbrush	0.594*	0.776
12	Child's oral hygiene time	0.545*	0.789
13	Type of feeding habits	0.743**	0.773
14	Frequency of feeding	0.616*	0.788
15	Duration of feeding	0.755**	0.790
16	Time of the day of feeding	0.629*	0.801
17	Content of bottle	0.590*	0.797

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01; \* Correlation is significant at the 0.05.

As shown in Table II, the obtained correlation values of the Questions numbered 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,11,12,13,14,15,16,17 are > critical value and are highly significant, hence these are valid questions.

### 3) Inter-Observer Reliability

SI No	Questions	ICC	95% Confidence Interval		
51. INO	I. NO Questions		Lower	Upper	
1	Decision making ability of family	0.806	0.409*	0.917*	
2	Mother's last visit to dentist	0.9	0.830*	0.981*	
3	Mother's brushing frequency	0.789	0.502*	0.934*	
4	Mother's use of dental floss	0.696	0.285*	0.825*	
5	Mother's use of mouthwash	0.7	0.291*	0.893*	
6	Mother's frequency of change of toothbrush	0.911	0.866*	0.985*	
7	Mother's oral hygiene time	0.812	0.636*	0.955*	
8	Child's last visit to dentist	0.772	0.407*	0.917*	

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9	Child's brushing frequency	0.797	0.710*	0.966*
10	Child's use of dental floss	0.803	0.503*	0.934*
11	Child's change of toothbrush	0.82	0.522*	0.937*
12	Child's oral hygiene time	0.799	0.439*	0.923*
13	Type of feeding habits	0.852	0.629*	0.954*
14	Frequency of feeding	0.702	0.448*	0.924*
15	Duration of feeding	0.807	0.5*	0.934*
16	Time of the day of feeding	0.8	0.457*	0.926*
17	Content of bottle	0.931	0.747*	0.971*

\*statistically significant.

As shown in Table III, the excellent reliability is seen in Question 2, 6, and 17. Good reliability is seen in Questions 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. Moderate reliability is seen in Questions 4 and 5.

#### 4) Content Validity Ratio

Sl. No	Questions	CVR	Decision
1	Decision making ability of family	1	Acceptable
2	Mother's last visit to dentist	0.8	Acceptable
3	Mother's brushing frequency	0.8	Acceptable
4	Mother's use of dental floss	1	Acceptable
5	Mother's use of mouthwash	1	Acceptable
6	Mother's frequency of change of toothbrush	0.8	Acceptable
7	Mother's oral hygiene time	0.8	Acceptable
8	Child's last visit to dentist	0.8	Acceptable
9	Child's brushing frequency	1	Acceptable
10	Child's use of dental floss	1	Acceptable
11	Child's change of toothbrush	0.8	Acceptable
12	Child's oral hygiene time	1	Acceptable
13	Type of feeding habits	1	Acceptable
14	Frequency of feeding	0.8	Acceptable
15	Duration of feeding	0.8	Acceptable
16	Time of the day of feeding	0.8	Acceptable
17	Content of bottle	1	Acceptable

All the items of the questionnaire shows CVR from 0.8 to 1. The questions 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16 have

CVR value of 0.8 and questions 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 17 have CVR value of 1. For validity ratio, the number of experts who rated 'essential' for any question were considered as Ne, 0.8 ratio were considered as acceptable. Hence in this case the questionnaire demonstrated overall acceptable content validity. The results are presented in Table 4 and Fig.2



Figure 2: Content Validity Ratio

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PARTICIPANT NUMBER-	
AGE-	
SEX OF CHILD-	
MOTHER'S EDUCATION -	
OCCUPATION-	
FAMILY INCOME-	
WHO DECIDES ON CHILD'S HEALTHCARE?	
o MOTHER	
6 FAIRER	
WHO DECIDES ON LARGE HOUSEHOLD PURCHASES ?	
o MOTHER	
6 PAINER	
WHO DECIDES ON VISIT TO FAMILY OR RELATIVES ?	
O MOTHER	
o Minex	
MOTHER	CHILD
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU VISITED THE	WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOUR CHILD
DENTIST?	VISITED THE DENTIST?
<ul> <li>LESS THAN 3 MONTHS AGO</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>LESS THAN 3 MONTHS AGO</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>FROM 3-6 MONTHS AGO</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>FROM 3-6 MONTHS AGO</li> </ul>
o 1 YEAR AGO	o 1 YEAR AGO
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU BRUSH TEETH?	HOW MANY TIMES DOES TOUR CHILD
o TWICE	o ONCE
o THRICE	o TWICE
o mile	O THRICE
DO YOU USE DENTAL FLOSS?	DOES YOUR CHILD USE DENTAL FLOSS?
o YES	o YES
o NO	o NO
DO YOU USE MOUTHWASH?	
o YES	
0 NO	
HOW OFTEN DO YOU CHANGE YOUR	HOW OFTEN DOES YOUR CHILD CHANGE
TOOTHBRUSH?	TOOTHBRUSH?
<ul> <li>EVERY 3 MONTHS</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>EVERY 3 MONTHS</li> </ul>
o EVERY 6 MONTHS	<ul> <li>EVERY 6 MONTHS</li> </ul>
O EVERY YEAR	O EVERY YEAR
HOW LONG DO TOU TAKE FOR URAL	FOR ORAL HYGIENES
ABOUT 1 MINUTE	ABOUT 1 MINUTE
ABOUT 2 MINUTES	ABOUT 2 MINUTES
A MORE THAN 2 MINUTES	A MORE THAN 2 MINUTES

	AT WHAT AGE DID YOUR CHILD START TOOTHBRUSHING? • AT 6 MONTHS OF AGE • BETWEEN 1-2 YEARS OF AGE • AFTER 2 YEARS
	AT WHAT AGE WAS YOUR CHILD'S FIRST DENTAL VISIT? • 6 MONTHS OF AGE • 1 YEAR OF AGE • MORE THAN 1 YEAR OF AGE
WHAT KIND OF FEEDING DO YOU PRACTICE?	
<ul> <li>BREAST FEEDING</li> </ul>	
o BOTTLE FEEDING	
FOR HOW LONG DID YOU FEED YOUR CHILD?	
o LESS THAN 1 YEAR	
o 1-2 YEARS	
O 2 YEARS OR MORE	
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU FEED YOUR CHILD?	
o 3-5 TIMES A DAY	
o 5-10 TIMES A DAY	
<ul> <li>MORE THAN 10 TIMES A DAY</li> </ul>	
AT WHAT TIME OF THE DAY DO YOU FEED	
YOUR CHILD?	
<ul> <li>AT BED TIME INCLUDING NAPS</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>MOST NAPS BUT NOT DURING NIGHT BED TIME</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>MOST NIGHT BED TIME BUT NOT NAPS</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>OCCASIONALLY AT BED TIMES</li> </ul>	
INCLUDING NAPS	
DAILY BOTTLE CONTENTS:	
o INFANT FORMULA	
o COW'S MILK	
o WATER	
o JUICE	
O SOFT DRINK	

		় টা ০ শা	
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(H+B.		০ ধ্যায় 1 থিপিট	সময় (নয়?
শারিবারিক আয়-		০ রার 2 মেন্ড ০ 2 মিনিটের্ড বেশি	০ প্রায় 3 মানদত ০ প্রায় 2 মিনিট
শিচের স্বাস্থানেরার বিষয়ে কে নিয়ার লেচ?			০ হ মিনিটোরও বেশি
e first			আগনার সন্তান কোন বহুসে দাঁও রাশ করা শুরু কারজিলা?
কে গৃহস্থানী কায়ের নিস্কান্ত গেয়া? ৬ ঘা ৬ নিজা			০ 6 মাস বহুসে ০ 1-2 বছর রহাসের মাধ্য
পরিবার বা আস্ট্রীয়ামর সামে মেনা ভরার দিয় ৬ যা ৬ পিয়া	হার কে পেয়া?		০ 2 বছর গর কোন বহুসে আগনার সন্তানের প্রথম ডেন্টাল ভিরিট ছিল? ০৫ চাল বহুস
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আগদি কানবার বাঁবে রাশ করেন? ০ একবার	অ্যাপন্থার পিন্তু কতরার দীত রাশ করে? ০ একবার	০ ফর্যুলা খাওয়ানো ০ মিলিত	
o पुरेशांस o ठिल	o दिवस	আগনি কন্তজন আগনার সন্তান্যক বাওয়ালেন?	
আপনি কি ডেন্টাল ফুল ব্যবহার করেন? ০   হা ০   দা	গুৱালগার নিচে রি চেন্টাল স্কুস রাবহার করে? ০ টা ০ লা	<ul> <li>0 1 वहारात कप</li> <li>0 1-2 वहारा</li> <li>0 2 वहारा का का वाला</li> </ul>	
আগদি জি দায়িতএয়াল ব্যবহার কচেখ্য		আপন্দি আপন্যার সন্ত্রান্যারু রভবার খাওরান? ০ মিন্দে 3-5 বার ০ মিন্দে 5-10 রার ০ মিন্দে 10 বারের রেশি	
		দিনের কোন্দ সময়ে আপনি আপনার সন্তান্যক আওয়ান্য? ০ ঘূয়াদোর সময় ঘূয় সহ	

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আপনি কত ঘন ঘন আপনার টুথৱাশ পরিবর্তন করেন? ০ প্রতি ও মাসে ০ প্রতি ৬ মাসে ০ প্রতি ৬ মাসে	ৰুত ঘন ঘন আগনার শিশ্র টুথরাশ পরিবর্তন করে? ০ প্রতি ৩ মাসে ০ প্রতি ৬ মাসে ০ প্রতি বছর
মৌথিক স্বাস্থাবিধির জন্য আপনি কওক্ষণ সময় দেন? ০ প্রায় 1 মিনিট ০ প্রায় 2 মিনিট ০ 2 মিনিটেরও বেশি	আপনার শিশু মৌখিক স্নায়্যবিধির জন্ম কভক্ষণ সময় নেয়? ০ প্রায় 1 মিনিট ০ প্রায় 2 মিনিট ০ 2 মিনিটেরও বেশি
	আগনার সন্তান কোন বয়সে দাঁত রাশ করা শুরু করেছিল? ০ 6 মাস বয়সে ০ 1-2 বছর বয়সের মধ্যে ০ 2 বছর পর
	কোন বয়সে আপনার সন্তানের প্রথম ডেন্টাল ভিজিট ছিল? ০ 6 মাস বয়স ০ 1 বছরে বয়স ০ 1 বছরের বেশি বয়স
আপনি কি ধরনের খাওয়ানোর অনুশীলন করেন? ০ বুকের দ্বুখ খাওয়ানো ০ বোজল খাওয়ানো ০ ফর্মুনো খাওয়ানো ০ মিলিত	
আপনি কতচ্চণ আপনার সস্তানকে খাওয়ালেন? ০ 1 বছরের কম ০ 1-2 বছর ০ 2 বছর বা তার বেশি	
আপনি আপনার সন্তানকে কতবার খাওয়ান? ০ মিলে 3-5 বার ০ মিলে 5-10 বার ০ মিলে 10 বারের বেশি	
দিনের কোন সময়ে আপনি আপনার সন্তানকে খাওয়ান? ০ ঘমানোর সময় ঘম সহ	

Figure 3: Questionnaire in English Language

प्रतिमागी संख्या-		০ সচী	০ নগ্র
अग्रतु-		क्या आप माउथवॉश का इस्लेमाल करते हैं? 	
		0.75	
बच्चे का लिंग-		आप अपना ट्याबस फिलनी बार बहलते हैं?	आएका बच्चा किलनी बार टचवारा बटलता है?
and the second		० हर ३ महीने	० हर ३ महिने
માસા જા ભારતા –		<ul> <li>हर ६ महीने</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>हर ६ महीने</li> </ul>
den.		<ul> <li>हर शाल</li> </ul>	० हर साल
		आप मौछिक स्वाप्ठाल के लिए कितना समय	आपका बदया मौछिक स्वप्रकृत के लिए कितना
पारिवारिक आय-		(13) (13) (13) (13) (13) (13) (13) (13)	समय लेता है?
		<ul> <li>सगमग 1 मिलट</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>लगभग 1 मिलट</li> </ul>
बच्चे की स्वारण्य देखभाल पर कौन निर्णय लेता है	7	<ul> <li>लगभग २ मिनद</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>लगभग २ मिनट</li> </ul>
০ সাঁ		<ul> <li>२ मिनट से अधिक</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>२ मिलट से अधिक</li> </ul>
० थिता			आएके बच्चे में किस उम्र में दूधब्रश करना शुरू किया?
			<ul> <li>6 महीने की उम में</li> </ul>
बई घरल् खरादा का लिणय कॉन करता है?			० १-२ साल की उम्र के बीच
0 म			० २ साल बाद
০ থিলা			आपके बादव की पहली दल विकिएसा याथा किया उस
other - Dated & Deat - Arrest at			31 E2 U17
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o All			a sankat uffra urar
0 Milli		were fibre erater its weeter all weaters acrit \$2	0 14403440343
्रमं	<b>1</b> 501	् बेग्ट कीहिंग	
अंतिस बार आपसे हॉनी के डॉक्टर को कब	आपका बादवा विपाली बार देन विकिन्सक के पास कब	o बोलन से दुध पिलाना	
Dana ano	THE REP.	० फॉर्मला फीडिंग	
् । महीदी में कम पहले	् १ महीने में कम पहले	० संयुक्त	
fe from feilure a.e.	the form for the second	आपने अपने बच्चे को किसने समय तक	
0 1 3074 0073	0 1 3072 0073	खिलामा?	
were Shouth are wird at any word #>	wroter accor factoff are are accor to	० 1 वर्ष से कम	
	and a carrier at set actings	० १-२ साल	
े रेकवर	0 1000	<ul> <li>२ शाल या अधिकः</li> </ul>	
े दानार	े के बार	आप अपने बच्चे को किलनी बार खिलाते हैं?	
o end ale		<ul> <li>दिन में 3-5 बार</li> </ul>	
क्या आप इटल क्लाल की उपयोग करत ह?	बचा जापका बच्चा इटल प्रशास का उपयोग करता हु?		
0 10	0.61		

Figure 4: Questionnaire in Bengali Language

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0	5-10 बार एक दिन	
0	दिन में 10 से अधिक बार	
आप अ	(पने बच्चे को दिन के किस समय खिलाती	
\$2		
0	झपकी सहित सोते समय	
0	अधिकतर झपकी लेकिन रात को सोने	
	के समय नहीं	
o	अधिकांश रात सोने का समय लेकिन	
	झपकी नहीं	
0	कभी-कभी झपकी सहित सोने के समय	
दैनिक	बोतल सामग्री:	
0	शिशु फार्मूला	
0	गाय का दूध	
0	पानी	
0	रस	
0	शीतल पेय	

Figure 5: Questionnaire in Hindi Language

## 9. Discussion

"Validity and reliability are two fundamental components in the estimation of a measurement instrument. Instruments can be divided into conventional knowledge, skill or attitude tests, clinical simulations or survey questionnaires. Instruments measure concepts, psychomotor skills or affective values". [7] "Face validity was assessed using qualitative ways. However, we assessed content validity quantitatively using content validity ratio. Since, content validity is a prerequisite for other validity tests, it should gain the highest priority during instrument development. Validity is not the property of an instrument, but the property of the values obtained by an instrument used for a specific purpose on a special group of respondents. Thus, on each study for which an instrument is used validity evidence should be obtained". [5,6,9]

"Reliability is concerned with an instrument's ability to consistently produce trustworthy measurements."It's worth emphasizing that reliability of an instrument is closely related to its validity. Without reliability, it is difficult to establish validity." However, the reliability of an instrument is independent of its validity."[6,10,11] To ensure reliability, Cronbach's alpha integration and ICC were calculated for the questionnaire. In general, the results were acceptable.

This questionnaire has been presented as a simple answering tool. The study proved that proposed scale have acceptable properties of reliability and validity that would validate its application in feeding practices and maternal influence in children having Early Childhood Caries. "Our findings indicate that they remained acceptable following this process. The internal consistency showed acceptable values, framed in the category of "good" (values> 0.7), as reported" by Steiner et al. [6]

## **10.** Conclusion

The maternal factors, such as high caries index scores, poor oral hygiene status and low socioeconomic factors, were the strong risk indicators for identifying children susceptible to caries. Child's feeding habits such as feeding frequency, type of feeding, falling asleep with nipple in the mouth, and duration of breast feeding have significant direct relationship with the severity of ECC. Severity of ECC was found to be significantly related to the children's frequency of toothbrushing and the oral hygiene status. This study recommended that the questionnaire is a valid and reliable simple, non invasive tool for evaluation of quality of life for mothers and their children suffering from Early Childhood Caries

## **11. Future Scope**

This questionnaire can be used as a simple and valuable tool to evaluate different feeding habits and maternal influence on the development of early Childhood Caries.

## 12. Limitation

This study has several limitations. It was a single centred and small population study. We need to further study with multi centric and in big population.

#### Consent

As per international standard or university standard, Participants' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

#### **Ethical Approval**

Requisite ethical clearance & permission to undertake the study was obtained from Guru Nanak Institutional Ethical Committee of Guru Nanak Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, Kolkata. Ethical approval no is GNIDSR/IEC/21-24/22.

#### **Competing Interests**

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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