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**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BIRTH ORDER AND
CARIES EXPERIENCE AMONG 5-YEAR-OLD
SCHOOLCHILDREN IN KYAUK ME` TOWNSHIP**

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to assess the relationship of birth order and caries experience among five-year-old schoolchildren. 200 schoolchildren (89 males and 111 females) attending grade I at Basic Education Government Schools who were first born and later born of their families from urban area (Kyauk Me`) and rural area (Sa Khan Thar villages) in Northern Shan State were participated in this study. The study design was descriptive, cross-sectional, comparative study. The caries prevalence of schoolchildren was assessed with dft index. The mothers / caregivers of schoolchildren were interviewed about socio-economic data to categorize 5 levels of socio-economic classes by using modified Kappuswamy's socio-economic scale. Mean dft of first born was 3.67 (3.40) and later born was 6.56 (3.98). Mean dft of schoolchildren from urban was 5.37 (4.32) and rural was 4.86 (3.59). Mean dft of different socio-economic classes were 6.0 (lower), 5.26 (upper lower), 5.18 (lower middle) and 4.82 (upper middle) respectively. There was significant relationship between birth order and caries experience of schoolchildren ($p = 0.023$). No statistical difference was found between dwelling area and caries prevalence of schoolchildren ($p = 0.365$). And then, caries experience was not significantly different among different SES classes ($p = 0.973$). Among the risk factors of dental caries, the results of this study indicated that later born children were associated with more dental caries. Therefore, this finding suggested emphasizing the need for oral health programs targeted at the treatment and prevention of high risk children.