

**ORAL HEALTH STATUS OF GOWLI COMMUNITY
IN
NORTH - KANARA DISTRICT**

- A DESCRIPTIVE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

By

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INTRODUCTION

Health is a fundamental human right, and for this the individual, community, nation and the Government all have to play their respective role collectively and in constructive manner⁸².

Health as stated by WHO is a complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely an absence of a disease or infirmity⁵⁵.

'Oral Health' being an integral part of total health, no individual can be considered healthy, while there is active disease in the mouth.

Epidemiological studies show remarkable progress in dental health among industrialized countries in contrast to the developing countries which are beginning to deteriorate⁷¹.

Although oral diseases are not life threatening, they are important public health problems in terms of pain, discomfort, social and functional limitations, thus effecting the quality of life.

India, being a developing country with 70% of rural population, coupled with illiteracy, low per capita income, lack of medical and dental facilities contributes to show high prevalence of dental caries and periodontal diseases.

Health situation varies among various communities in India. It is applicable to oral health as well. Though dental problems are increasing in India, the services provided for the needy population is very scanty.