



**“CO-RELATION BETWEEN ORAL HEALTH STATUS AND  
SERVICE UTILIZATION AMONG ADULT POPULATION OF  
DHARWAD – A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY”**

By

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** The oral disease burden in India is showing a steady increase in the recent years. Utilization of dental care plays a major role in affecting the oral health status of the population. Utilization is not just the willingness of people to seek care, but the actual attendance at the site of delivery of health care services to receive care. Adults have enjoyed better conditions of life than older generations. Furthermore few researches have been directed towards oral health status and utilization of services among adults population. **Aim:** To assess and compare the oral health status of people who have utilized oral health services to those who have not utilized the services. **Methodology:** A Cross- sectional survey was conducted on 898 subjects aged 18 years and above. The subjects were interviewed for socio-demographic characteristics which includes age, gender, occupation, education, information regarding utilization of dental services. Oral health status was assessed with the help of specially designed WHO (2013) Oral health assessment proforma. **Results:** Among the total of 898 subjects the overall utilization of services was 44.64%. The results reveals that there is an significant difference between utilization of services and age, gender, education, type of setting of services. When the dentition status was assessed there is a significant difference between and the utilization of services and dentition status. The prevalence of dental caries was 35.85%. The periodontal diseases also shows the significant difference between the utilization of service and disease. The prevalence of periodontal disease was 61.12%. **Conclusion:** Utilization of dental services in Dharwad urban areas was found to be low. Further studies are needed to explore the factors affecting utilization of dental health services in depth.

**Key Words:** Adult, Oral health status, Utilization of dental services, on-utilization of services