



“FACTORS AFFECTING UTILIZATION OF ORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND ORAL HEALTH STATUS AMONG SIDDHI, TIBETAN AND INDIAN POPULATION RESIDING IN NORTHERN PART OF KARNATAKA”

By

Dr. Kumar Gaurav Chhabra

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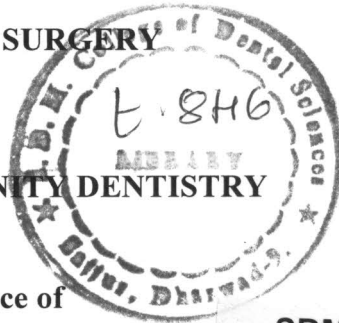
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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The ethnic races usually are plagued by the burden of oral diseases and restricted access for oral care. Socio-economic and demographic factors may be helpful in exploring these trends. Therefore, a study is conducted to understand oral health status and factors affecting utilization of oral health services in identifying the areas that have to be overhauled by the dental community. **Aim:** To assess oral health status and factors affecting utilization of oral health services among Siddhi, Tibetan and Indian population residing in Northern part of Karnataka. **Methodology:** Data on oral health status was collected using W.H.O. oral health assessment form 1997. Data for socio-demographic, socio-economic factors, perceived oral health, perceived need, and utilization of dental services was collected by interviewing the subjects. **Results:** Periodontal disease in Indians, Siddhis and Tibetans was found to be 98.00% 97.80%, and 97.40% respectively. Prevalence of dental caries in Tibetan, Indians and Siddhis were found to be 90.40%, 81.00% and 73.20%. Multiple linear regression analysis for Siddhis showed education and distance were important factors in explaining the dental visits, for Tibetan it was family income, marital status and need for dental care were important factors in explaining the dental visits, for Indians it showed age, general health rating, need for dental care and service provider was important factors in explaining the dental visits. **Conclusions.** Siddhis suffered more from oral diseases and as compared to Indians and Tibetans. Tibetans have utilized better oral health services as compared to Indians and Siddhis. Health care facilities in the vicinity, less distance travelled and positive perceived need for oral health care are the influencing factors for better utilization of oral health care services.

Key words: Ethnic races, oral health status, utilization of oral care; oral health; socio demographic variables; perceived oral health.