

**“EVALUATION OF THE PROSTHODONTIC TREATMENT
NEEDS OF AN ELDERLY POPULATION IN A SMALL SECTION
OF POPULATION IN DHARWAD – AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL
SURVEY”**

By

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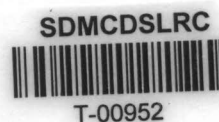
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In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

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In

PROSTHODONTICS



Under the guidance of

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES:

Englander¹ stated that Epidemiology is the study of factors which influence the occurrence, distribution of health, the disease pattern, defects and disabilities which may contribute to the death in the population.

Basic oral health surveys reflect the basic oral health information about the oral disease and treatment needs for monitoring oral health care programmes. Such surveys have been done sporadically in India, but a comprehensive survey to cover the composite population of Indian community has not been attempted so far.

In the absence of such a survey, any agency or government trying to provide either a preventive or curative care for the relief of disease in a community will be contributing to confusion.

Oral health is an integral part of general health as most of the systematic diseases, which according to Miller², about 120 systemic diseases show their effects either primarily or secondarily in the oral cavity. To consider an individual healthy, while there is active disease in the oral cavity, is not justified.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

In the present study an attempt was made to assess the relationship between the clinical assessment of the dental treatment needs of a sample of elderly people, their demands for treatment and their general health and perceived oral handicaps

An epidemiological survey was conducted among elderly people living in a section of population at Dharwad. People were contacted in their own homes and a structured interview was conducted. This gained information on general health, dental health

and perceived oral handicaps as well as felt and expressed needs. The interview was followed by a dental examination to assess the dental status and prosthodontic treatment needs.

RESULTS:

- In a sample of 2000

— Illiterates accounted for 543 (27.15%)

- Primary educated — 489 (24.45%)

- Secondary educated — 359 (17.95%)

- Highly educated — 609 (30.4%)

Complete denture wearers (Met need)

- In illiterates — 9 (1.65%)

- In primary educated — 14 (2.86%)

- In secondary educated — 11 (3.06%)

- In higher educated — 23 (3.78%)

The total need for complete denture (Unmet need) was 49 (4.92%).

- Illiterates 65 (11.97%)

— Primary 16 (3.27)

- Secondary 8 (2.23%)

— Higher 10 (1.64%)

INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSION:

From this survey, it was found that low socioeconomic group, in rural areas had no facilities for dental treatment. So more importance should be given to the rural population by conducting rural health programmes and the cost of dental treatment should be calculated and planned in such a way that the low socio—economic population group can be benefitted.

KEYWORDS:

Prosthodontic treatment needs, socio-economic status, literacy rate.