



**“ORAL HEALTH STATUS AND TREATMENT NEEDS OF
PRISONERS IN DHARWAD DISTRICT”**

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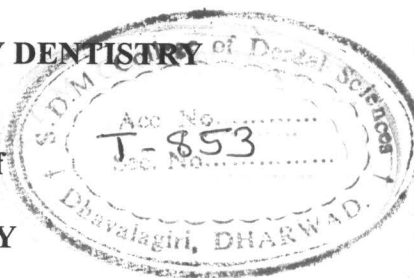
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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Prisoner is a person who is deprived of his/her liberty; even though they are deprived of their liberty they are not deprived of their right to maintain good general and oral health. Currently, one under researched area has been the oral health status of prisoners.

Aim: To assess the oral health status and treatment needs of prisoners in Dharwad district prisons.

Methodology: A total of 256 prisoners were examined from two different prisons of Dharwad district. A proforma was used to obtain data regarding socio-demographic characteristics, duration of stay in prison, previous dental treatment in prison and oral hygiene habits. The W.H.O. Oral Health Assessment Form (1997) was used to assess the oral health status of the study subjects.

Results: 88.28% of prisoners were males and were in the age group of 18-27 years. 47.27% of prisoners were imprisoned for less than 1 year and 67.19% of prisoners belonged to the upper middle class. Prevalence of periodontal disease was 98.5% and dental caries was 82.42% in the prisoners. About 98% of the prisoners did not receive any kind of dental treatment in the prison. 67.19% of subjects needed one surface filling, 18.75% of subjects needed two surface fillings, 10.55% of subjects needed pulp care, 31.64% of subjects needed extraction of teeth and 42.58% of study subjects needed replacement of missing teeth.

Conclusions: Prisoners were sharing disproportionate burden of oral diseases and there was no provision of oral health services in the prison, hence the study emphasizes the need for oral health programs to improve the oral health of prisoners.

Key words: prisoners, oral health, dental treatment in prison, treatment needs