SDM
College of
Dental Sciences
& Hospital

"ASSESSMENT OF EXPRESSED AND NORMATIVE NEEDS OF THE PATIENTS VISITING SDM COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES & HOSPITAL, DHARWAD"

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Healthcare industry undergoes molding and remolding procedures repeatedly to overcome the shortcomings and reach general population. Needs assessment is one of the proven methods of assessing the demands for health care services in given community. In the field of dentistry it shows same scenario where, there always been debate about prioritizing expressed or normative dental treatment need. Hence, current study was conducted to assess the level of expressed and normative dental treatment needs and the disparity between both needs. *Methodology:* Using random selection method, total of 701 subjects participated into study. Information regarding their socio-demographic information, chief complaint and related expressed dental treatment need was gathered. Later oral examination was conducted by professional to assess the normative dental treatment need. Collected data was entered into Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and later subjected to statistical analysis in SPSS ver 20.0. *Results:* Among total 701 subjects participated, varying levels of expressed dental treatment needs were observed. The expressed dental treatment needs for removal of tooth was 21.68% whereas normative need was 19.4%. In same order, expressed and normative need for cleaning of tooth was 21.11% and 93.86%, for restorations 16.83% and 29.81%, for dentures 3.85% and 9.23%, for cap on tooth 2.28% and 1.71%, whereas for orthodontic correction 2.28% and 1.71%. 13.69% of subjects expressed with dental treatment needs such as medicines, surgery, etc. Whereas, there were 18.25% subjects who were unaware of about the treatment expected from professional. When compared, the disparity between both expressed and normative dental treatment needs was for restoration 83.06%, cleaning of teeth 6.76%, removal of tooth 64.48%, cap on tooth 100%,

orthodontic correction 62.5%, whereas for dentures it is 0%. Among socio-demographic factors, Karl Pearson's correlation analysis revealed significant positive correlation with age (P < 0.01) and socio-economic status (P <0.05). ***Conclusions:*** When expressed and normative dental treatment needs were compared, the matching between both was found to be around 31% only. This lack of awareness of oral health importance and various dental services available, calls for health education and motivation of the public. Also, the matching between both the needs increases with increasing age and socio-economic status, which signifies that better socio – economic status and advancing age makes person more aware about dental problems and treatments for the same.

Keywords: Expressed dental treatment need, normative dental treatment need, disparity.