

Assessment of Oral Health Status and Treatment Needs Among Sex Workers of Belagavi District – A Cross Sectional Study

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Abstract

Background: Professional sex workers are a vulnerable lot with respect to both systemic as well as oral health. Sex workers have no felt need for oral health and much of the stress has always been on sexually transmitted infections (STIs). There is a need for a baseline data about the oral health status to plan preventive, promotive and curative services for sex workers. **Aim:** To assess the oral health status and treatment needs among sex workers and to suggest measures for improving their oral health status. **Materials and methods:** The present study was a cross-sectional study conducted among conducted among 246 commercial sex workers from different areas of Belagavi district. General information and information related to habits were collected by interview method. It was followed by dental caries examination of based on DMFT INDEX 1938 using mouth mirror and explorer. periodontal status was assessed using Russel's periodontal index 1956. Chi-square test was done to find the association between the study variables. Level of significance was set at $P < 0.05$ The data collected were subjected to statistical analysis and analysis was done using SPSS package 16.0. **Results:** Mean DMFT is 3.15 of the total participants 37% had periodontal problems 43% of them had some or the other kind of personal habits. 68% of them requires various dental treatments. **Conclusions:** It was found that these people are more emotionally deprived having increased stress being prone to poor oral health quality of life. Hence it is necessary to start suitable community dental health programmes to improve the oral health status.