

2. Foreword

Oral diseases are one of the most common of non communicable diseases affecting varied population. It is an important public health problem owing to the prevalence, socio-economical aspect, expensive treatment & lack of awareness. As per the report of the National Commission on Macroeconomics & Health, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, the prevalence of dental caries in all age group has been found to be 50%, periodontal diseases (relatively severe) in the 15+ age group is 45%, malocclusion in the age group of 9-14 years is 32.50%, Fluorosis in all age groups is quoted 5.50% and that of oral cancer in the age group of 35+ is 0.03%. The determinants of oral diseases are often the same as for many other non-communicable diseases & accordingly there is a great urgency to incorporate oral health into general health. Good oral health becomes especially important in consideration tot he children & elderly in order to enjoy good quality life.

“Oral Health in India : A report of the multi centric study” is a timely publication & one of its kinds, which gives an insight in to the various oral health problems across the seven centers, representing different areas of this country. It was since long felt that a standarized report of this kind representing the oral disease burden from different geographical locations was required to have an idea about the prevalence & knowledge, attitude & practice of people regarding oral health. The striking feature of this survey is its uniformity as regards to male/female subject size & urban/rural presentation. Efforts of the principal investigators & their team deserve accolades as the survey was conducted from all walks of life, varied age groups & under constraints because of natural calamities faced many centers.

The report is an output of the collective work undertaken from Directorate General of Health Services, World Health Organization & All India Institute of Medical Sciences. I hope that the contents of this report would be useful to the health professionals, researchers & policy makers.

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