

Editorial

Scope of Research in Rural Oral Health

A general health for all is important for the well-being of society. However, oral health has been ignored and has taken a backseat in both urban and rural health care. Though the number of dentists and dental practice in urban India has galloped at a much faster rate in the last few years, little concern has been shown to their counterparts in the rural environment. The oral health and disease observed in urban and rural population may not be similar. The rural areas may have diseases due to unavailability of treatment, ignorance, and increased use of unhealthy habits of tobacco. The health care system is not developed to impart the treatment required and very little emphasis is given to carry out research occurring because of diseases.

Research is defined as a systemic method of inquiry either in order to reach new conclusion or to confirm previous findings or observations. Research depends on the nature of the question, the background and the disciplinary orientation of the research, and finally the setting in which research is to be conducted. Many prefer laboratory controlled research as it has control on extraneous variables and reproductivity. However, field research is conducted in the real world or natural setting where the research sample represents a wide range of situations and environmental conditions. Therefore, carrying out field research in the rural setting in patients with disease caused due to environment, diet, and risk factors would be beneficial. This approach can help in designing oral health programs as per scientific needs, applicable to specific demographic areas. Rural areas provide smaller size communities which may help in better coordination, collaboration, and decision making, which is a greater environmental advantage for conducting research. It is the need of the hour to encourage the researchers and investigators to involve themselves and actively participate in integrated research in the rural population. This will enlighten us on the prevalence of the disease and their treatment, helping the rural population lead a healthy and happy life.

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