

Chapter 2

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 NEED FOR THE STUDY

There are extensive studies on the effect of mining and its environment including the particulate matter on the general health of the human beings. However, the effect of mining on the oral health of the human beings is not been given any consideration at all and the literature per se is very negligible. Assuming that particulate matter concentration will be more in the mining area and the mining labourers will be performing strenuous labouring, which obviously makes them oral breathers or else ora-nasal breathers, which makes them more prone for the dental ill health due to the particulate matter concentration if any. So, the present study was aimed to test the hypothesis whether the mining as an occupation leads oral ill health and whether the particulate matter can be causative factor for dental ill health in mining labourers. As factory/Mining workers constitute well-defined population group, knowledge of factors affecting their oral health in a work place allows oral health promotion measures to be appropriately targeted, studies conducted on them also help in planning of preventive programmes for the prevention of oral diseases and promotion of oral health in industrial health care system.

2.1.1 What is aimed to be achieved by the study?

It is aimed to achieve the knowledge about the existing oral health condition of the mining workers and the cause behind the same. The data of the labourers will be compared with the normal non-mining population which will give the idea of influencing factors in the work environment that can be

deleterious to the oral health of these mining workers. Evaluation of the oral health will also help in detecting the presences of systemic disease if any and further we can advise for the advanced diagnostic aids for the need patients, which will help in early detection and treatment of the systemic disease if any.

2.1.2 How is it likely to advance or add to the existing knowledge in relation to human health?

The occupational environment and health related studies have been of great importance worldwide. However, the data or the literature pertaining to the occupational environment and oral disease is rather very scanty. Most of the systemic and the deleterious human disease can be identified by the oral conditions, which otherwise undergo undiagnosed. Thus oral health should be given equal importance as the general health, which unfortunately is not the case in the developing country like India. This neglect of oral health is even more in the strenuous labouring/mining class who being exposed to the polluted environment are at more risk of developing oral health problems and who are ignorant of such condition because of their limited education. The study pertaining to the oral health in mining workers so far in India are very minimal and none which have compared the normal population with that of the mining workers. It is the sole purpose of this paper to evaluate the oral health status of the mining workers and to compare the same with normal population. The investigation will also evaluate the influence of work environment on the oral condition of the mining workers. The research will help in identifying the oral health needs of the present population and will also try to propose the plan for combating the conditions leading to such problems in these mining workers.

2.2 AIM

The study was done to evaluate oral health status of the mining workers in the Udaipur City, Rajasthan, India.

2.3 OBJECTIVES

1. To review the literature of occupational Oral health related issues.
2. To evaluate the demographic data of the mining workers in Udaipur city.
3. The effect of mining on the dental health among the labourers in Udaipur city, Rajasthan, India.
4. To study the prevalence of oral cancerous and pre-cancerous lesions in the mining labourers in Udaipur city, Rajasthan, India.
5. To study the dental health and the prevalence of oral cancerous and pre-cancerous lesions in the non-mining population in Udaipur city, Rajasthan, India.
6. To compare the oral health status of the mining labourers and normal population of Udaipur city, Rajasthan, India.
7. To compare the difference in the level of particulate matter in the mining area around the Udaipur city and in the Udaipur city proper.