Millions of children and adults in India, these days, suffer from dental caries. During the last four-five decades the prevalence and incidence of dental caries amongst Indians has increased to a large extent. Modernisation and deficiency in oral hygiene is said to be responsible for high incidence of dental caries.

Dentist and population ratio in India is 1:80000; 80% of these dentist are clustered in urban areas whereas 80% of the population lives in the rural and semirural areas resulting in almost negligible dental facilities in the rural areas.

Even in the urban areas utilization of dental health services depends on perception and attitude of patients towards ill health. In developing countries like ours, a large majority of the population only seek dental treatment on an emergency cases such as relief of pain. Regular attendance for dental care is mostly limited to upper strata of society.

However, the most redeemable aspect of situation is that dental caries is largely preventable if proper oral health care system is designed at all levels on a sound
preventive and community basis.

The present work is an attempt towards understanding the different social and personnel habits which help in the increased prevalence of dental caries. The observations were taken separately for children and adult population because of wide differences in social and personnel habits of these two segments of the population.