BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES
BACKGROUND

According to a study conducted in 1998 in Ambalapuzha taluk of Kerala, the prevalence of dental fluorosis was found to be 35.64%. That study was confined only to a taluk area in Alappuzha District. As per the data of the Department of Ground Water, Kerala, the water fluoride levels in certain places in the districts of Alappuzha and Palakkad are above the permissible limit. But there is no scientific study conducted to assess the prevalence and causative risk factors of dental fluorosis in these districts. These are the two districts of Kerala, where ground water is mainly utilized for drinking purpose. Hence, the present study was undertaken to determine the prevalence and causative risk factors of dental fluorosis in these two districts. Two non-endemic neighboring districts (Kollam and Thrissur) were also included in the study. This investigation would be helpful to develop educational programmes, service activities and policy decisions to control dental fluorosis in the state.

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the prevalence of dental fluorosis in school children in the age group of 10-15 years in four selected districts of Alappuzha, Palakkad, Kollam and Thrissur in Kerala.

2. To identify the risk factors of dental fluorosis in the population.

3. To correlate the risk factors with the prevalence of dental fluorosis.

4. To suggest remedial measures for the control of dental fluorosis.