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# Patient Perception of Dental Camp and Factors Influencing Non-Return to Hospital

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Introduction: Oral health on an essential aspect of overall health and well – being. Dental camp provide oral health care to undeserved population, but their effectiveness depend on patient perception. this study explore patient perception views on the usefulness of dental camp and understand their experience and satisfaction with these community based initiatives.

Objectives: Aim of this study was to identify the attitudes, constraints, treatment to be rendered and their satisfaction regarding the dental camps conducted and identify the barrier why not reporting for further follow up.

Methodology: A cross sectional study was carried out among the dental camp patients of Kandanpet, Bahour, Sooriyankuppam, Thavalakuppam and Aranganoor. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data on socio – demographic details, factor influencing utilization, patient perception of the usefulness of dental camps

Result: A total of 100 participated are participated in this study. about 75.8% are reported to dental camp are useful for improving the oral health. About 96.9% preferred free camp and 67.4% which was to be conducted on weekends. Most of the patients don't report after dental camp due to cost of the treatment, time and longer waiting period.

Conclusion: The perception of dental camp, highlighting the valve in promoting the oral health care particularly among undeserved population.

KEYWORDS: Dental Camps, Oral Health Awareness, Patient Satisfaction

## INTRODUCTION

Dental camps are usually a day long visit to rural or general public centers or school settings for the provision of services like preventive care, curative care, screening for diseases and health care. Dental camps was initially organized and heightened during World War II. In India the dentistry started from the Indus Sarasvati Civilization in and around 7000 BC. Later dentistry was practiced in lanes, streets and roads before the coming of institutionalized medical centers. Dental public health aims to improve the oral health of the population through preventive and curative services. The extensive rural population and urban slum dwellers are denied of even the basic dental services, though there is a continuous advancement in the field of dentistry [1] . most of the dental

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clinics are established in urban areas, rural population find it difficult to reach the necessary dental care. To overcome this dental camps are conducted by various organization and institutions. The camps conducted can either be a screening camp or treatment camp. The screening camp aims at providing awareness about oral health and early diagnosis of oral diseases. The treatment camps are held to restore their natural teeth with a minor dental procedures carried by a dentist.

#### MATERIALS ANDMETHODOLOGY

A cross sectional study was carried out among the dental camp patients of Kandanpet, Bahour, Sooriyankuppam, Thavalakuppam and Aranganoor, Pondicherry. Overall 100 adults participated out of which 62 were females and 38 were males. A questionnaire containing 20 questions were asked among 100 participants. The questions were framed based on the pattern of KAP study and the questions were wetted by two experts. The questionnaire was designed to have 3 sections. Section A contains questions to assess the knowledge of participants about dental treatments, procedures, free dental camps and different specialization in dentistry. Section B contains questions to evaluate the attitude of participants towards camp whether they are interested in attending camps, how frequently the camps can be conducted and the timings. Section C contains questions about the practices whether dental students are efficient in performing the procedures and the treatment is satisfactory. Oral informed consent was obtained from the participant. Study consisted of self reported questionnaires delivered to the individuals all the participants were approached in person by an examiner and asked several questions. It was made clear that all participants were voluntary and have no impact on the personal life.

**INCLUSION CRITERIA:** Subjects who previously attended the camps, who were willing to participate in the study were included.

**EXCLUSION CRITERIA:** Subjects who has not attended any dental camps and who were not interested were excluded from this study.

### **RESULT**

A well conducted patient satisfaction survey would indicate levels of patient satisfaction with care and service. Aim of the present study was to identify the attitudes, constraints, treatment to be rendered and their satisfaction regarding the dental camps conducted. Table 1 reveals 77.9% of people need dental camp, about 56% are not aware of free dental camps, about 64% was not aware of different specialties available in dentistry and 29% people know about root canal treatment as a speciality available in dentistry, 52% of people are not aware dental procedures provided in dental colleges, about 76.5% people are not aware of cost dental treatment most of the people 71.7% think that dental students are insufficient in providing treatments. 77.8% people think that clinicians in dental camp are empathetic in understanding the problem and provide treatment, 76.8% people did not feel disturbed or annoyed when the camp team approaches to their door step,72.7% of people think that waiting period is longer for each treatment in dental colleges and treatment is satisfactory for 63.6% of people.

Table 2 reveals 67.4% prefer camps in the weekends and 32.6% prefer camp in the weekdays. 53.3% of people wanted camp to be conducted in the morning and 44.7% wanted camp in the evening. 47.5% wanted camp to be conducted monthly once, 35.4% wanted the camp to be conducted monthly twice and 17.2% wanted camp to be conducted yearly once or twice. About 68.5% people think that reason for conducting camp is only for the benefit of the patients and 21.4% of the people think that it's for the benefit of the hospital. 49.5% of the people find the camp useful for maintaining their oral health. 96.9% of people prefer free camps and 3.1% of the people prefer camp with minimal payment.

Most of the patients don't report after dental camp due to cost of the treatment, time and longer waiting period.

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TABLE 1

| QUESTION   | PERCENTAGE |       |
|--|------------|-------|
|  | YES        | NO    |
| Do you need dental camp  | 77.9%      | 32.8% |
| Aware of free treatment available in dental college  | 44%        | 56%   |
| Aware of different specialties available in dentistry  | 36%        | 64%   |
| Aware of dental procedures provided in dental college  | 48%        | 52%   |
| Aware of cost of each dental procedure   | 23.5%      | 76.5% |
| Dental students are less efficient in performing the procedure   | 28.3%      | 71.7% |
| Clinicians in the dental camp are empathetic to you in understanding the problem and providing you the treatment | 77.8%      | 22.2% |
| Feel disturbed or annoyed when the camp team approaches your door step   | 23.2%      | 76.8% |
| Waiting period for each treatment is longer in dental college  | 72.7%      | 27.3% |
| Treatment satisfactory for the amount you pay  | 63.6%      | 36.4% |

TABLE 2

| QUESTION                         | OPTION                    | PERCENTAGE |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| When do you prefer camp          | Week day                  | 32.6%      |
|                                  | Week ends                 | 67.4%      |
| Time the camp can be conducted   | Morning                   | 55.3%      |
|                                  | Evening                   | 44.7%      |
| Frequently camp can be conducted | Monthly twice             | 35.4%      |
|                                  | Monthly once              | 47.5%      |
|                                  | Yearly once or twice      | 17.2%      |
| Reasons for conducting the camp  | Benefit of patient        | 68.4%      |
|                                  | Benefit of patient        | 21.4%      |
|                                  | Others                    | 10.2%      |
| Useful is the camp               | Very useful               | 26.3%      |
|                                  | Useful                    | 49.5%      |
|                                  | Not at all useful         | 24.2%      |
| Camp do you prefer               | Free camp                 | 96.9%      |
|                                  | Camp with minimal payment | 3.1%       |

## **DISCUSSION**

The patient satisfaction is an individual's review of the degree to which a care being provided has met their preferences and opportunity. It is vital to get the opinion and the level of patient's satisfaction with available services. The importance of dental camp in providing essential oral health services to understand the population. addressing the issue such as lack of awareness, inconvenience, dissatisfaction with care is crucial to improving followup care rates and enchaing oral health outcomes. The finding of this study majority of patient 75.3% perceived dental camp as useful, convenience, affordability, and good treatment as primary reason. 24.2% found that camp are not useful. 77.9% of people need dental camp. About 29% of people know about root canal treatment as a speciality available in dentistry. 77.8% people think that clinicians in dental camp are empathetic in understanding the problem and provide treatment. 49.5% of the people find the camp useful for maintaining their oral health. 96.9% of people

prefer free camps and 3.1% of the people prefer camp with minimal payment. Most of the patients don't report after dental camp due to cost of the treatment, time and longer waiting period.

#### **CONCLUSION**

In outreach dental treatment programs, comprehensive oral health care with adequate review of patients should ensure satisfaction in patients. The utilization of dental services can be improved by identifying the barriers by providing appropriate education and knowledge. By changing the perception of individual towards their own and their family oral health and by transforming the roles of dentist society, the needs of individuals can truly be achieved. For patient's satisfactions towards outreach program-es we should increase the utilization of dental services, thereby improving the oral health status[2].

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