Personal Barriers to the Access of Oral Health Care:

Insights from a Survey Performed in Karachi

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study is to determine the barriers that are hindering access to oral healthcare service utilization. Cross-sectional study focusing on the low socio-economic community in Karachi, people living in low socio-economic community of Karachi was included with a sample size of 385 is calculated at confidence level 95%; Simple random sampling was performed. Questionnaire is adopted from World Health Organization Oral Health Survey (Petersen & Baez, 2013), the questionnaire contain three parts, initial part recorded the personal information of the participants, one part of the questionnaire involved questions relating to the personal factors that are influencing access to oral health service. Last part involved question relating to external or environmental factors that are contributing to denying the access to oral health service. Primarily this was a questionnaire based survey for which the researcher provided questionnaire to participant to be filled.

Pearson’s correlation analysis indicated significant correlation of access to oral health to education, cost of dental treatment. Result indicated that income being constant throughout the sample, education has a significant negative correlation with access to oral care meaning with increase in level of education, access to health care is decreasing with p-value <0.005, and cost
of dental care was found to have a significant positive correlation with access to oral care (p = 0.003).

**Keywords:** Access to Oral Health, Personal Barriers, Environmental Barriers