



# PREVALENCE OF LOSS OF TEETH AMONG GAY, BISEXUALS AND TRANSGENDERS POPULATIONS IN KARAIKAL, PUDUCHERRY, INDIA

Mahendirakumar Nagarajan<sup>1\*</sup>, Vijitha D<sup>2</sup>, Krishnaraj Ranganathan<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1&3</sup> Senior Lecturer, <sup>2</sup> Reader, Div. of Prosthodontics, Crown & Bridge, Rajamuthiah Dental College & Hospital, Chidambaram, Tamilnadu, India 608002.

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Gay, Bisexuals and Transgenders are socially neglected community and discrimination against them is very common. They are at risk of many oral health problems and the awareness among them about the common oral health problem is inadequate. **Aim and Objectives:** To study the prevalence of loss of teeth among Gay, Bisexuals and Transgenders populations in Karaikal. **Materials and Methods:** This is a descriptive study and the study population included Gay, Bisexuals and Transgenders in Karaikal. For each study participant, demographic details and dental history was recorded and oral examination was performed. **Results:** Total of 440 subjects, of which 290 were Gay, 125 were Bisexuals and 25 were Transgenders examined in the age group ranging from 18 to 52.67.6% of the gay individuals (196 out of 290), 62.4 % of the bisexual individuals (78 out of 125), and 64% of the transgender individuals (16 out of 25) reported with reported with partial loss of teeth (partial edentulism). In each group, more than 50 % of the population were found to be with partial loss of teeth in this study. **Conclusion:** Prevalence of partial edentulism is high in these socially neglected populations. This group should be potential target for periodic screening that will help in early diagnosis and treatment of dental caries and periodontal problem which are the leading cause of early loss of teeth.

**Keywords :-** Bisexuals, Edentulism, Gay, Oral Health, Transgender.

Access this article online		
<b>Home page:</b> <a href="http://www.mcmed.us/journal/abs">http://www.mcmed.us/journal/abs</a>  <b>DOI:</b> <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.21276/abs.2017.4.2.7">http://dx.doi.org/10.21276/abs.2017.4.2.7</a>	<b>Quick Response code</b> 	
<b>Received:</b> 25.05.17	<b>Revised:</b> 12.06.17	<b>Accepted:</b> 25.06.17

## INTRODUCTION

Prevalence and severity of dental diseases vary from individual to individual and are affected by age, gender, education and socioeconomic status [1]. Dental caries and chronic periodontitis which are the most common dental disease and chronic negligence in seeking dental care typically leads to tooth loss. Loss of teeth at early years of life affects the diet consumption, physical appearance and overall negatively affects the quality of life [2].

Periodic oral health screening aids in the early diagnosis of periodontal and dental caries minimizes the negative effects of these diseases [3]. Oral health services

are provided by dental institutions, government hospitals, and private hospitals and by private practitioners in our country. General population seeks oral health care services based on their access and affordability [4].

Despite this there are certain group of populations which are socially disadvantaged compared to other groups and their oral health poorer than the more advantaged groups [5]. Gay, bisexuals and Transgender community is one among the socially disadvantaged community in our country. Social stigma associated with these communities largely affects their access to oral health care and hence special attention is needed to improve their oral health [6].

Corresponding Author : Mahendirakumar Nagarajan Email: - nmk.mds@gmail.com

With this background, this study was undertaken to assess the prevalence of loss of teeth (partial or complete edentulism) among Gay, Bisexuals and Transgenders in Karaikal city, Puducherry, India.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This is a descriptive cross-sectional study and the study population included is Gay, Bisexuals and Transgenders in Karaikal. Subjects not willing to participate were excluded from the study. After obtaining

informed consent, each study participant's demographic details were recorded. General oral health examination was carried out for each study participants. The collected data were analyzed using SPSS (version 17.0) statistical software package and frequency tabulation was done.

## RESULTS

Total of 440 subjects, of which 290 were Gay, 125 were Bisexuals and 25 were Transgenders examined in the age group ranging from 18 to 52. (Table – 1).

**Table 1. Distribution of study subjects**

Gender	n	%
Gay	290	65%
Bisexuals	125	28%
Transgenders	25	7%
Total	440	100

**Table 2. Prevalence of Loss of Teeth (Partial Edentulism) among Gay, Bisexuals and Transgender**

Subject	n	Loss of Teeth	%
Gay	290	196 (290)	67.6%
Bisexuals	125	78(125)	62.4%
Transgenders	25	16(25)	64%

## DISCUSSION

In general, the attitude towards Gay, Bisexuals and Transgender community in Indian society is discriminatory and biased. Violence against these communities is very common and they are most vulnerable. [6, 7]

This social discrimination largely inhibits them from seeking medical and dental facilities. There is a high chance for this neglected population to indulge in tobacco related habits, alcoholism which severely affects the oral health of the individuals especially the periodontal status of the teeth.

Loss of teeth either partial edentulism or complete edentulism severely affects the physical appearance, speech and diet consumption of the individuals [2, 3]. Since these communities are deprived of oral health care because of social problems chance of chronic dental diseases are very common.

In the current study the prevalence of loss of teeth among Gay, Bisexuals and Transgender communities was studied. Of the total 440 subjects studied 296 were Gay, 125 were Bisexuals and 25 were transgender individuals.

67.6% of the gay individuals (196 out of 290), 62.4 % of the bisexual individuals (78 out of 125) and 64% of the transgender individuals (16 out of 25 ) reported with partial loss of teeth (partial edentulism).

In each group, more than 50 % of the population were found to be with partial loss of teeth in this study.

## CONCLUSION

It was found that prevalence of loss of teeth is higher in Gay, Bisexuals and Transgenders in this study. Hence this group should be potential target for periodic screening that will help in early diagnosis of dental caries and periodontal diseases. Appropriate intervention at early stages of the dental caries and periodontal disease will reduce the loss of tooth in future. Also highlighting the prevalence of loss of teeth will motivate oral health care providers to conduct periodic oral health screening and rehabilitation of partial and complete edentulism for these neglected populations.

## REFERENCES

1. Nirmal R, Naveen R, Sanjay J, Mathew T, Roshan U. (2014). Knowledge, Attitudes towards Prosthodontics Rehabilitation and Utilization of Dental Services among Songadh and Amargadh Population. *J. Dent Med.Med.Sci.*, 4(1), 1-6.
2. Sussex PV.(2008). Edentulism from New Zealand perspective – A review of the literature. *N.Z.Dental J*, 104, 84-96.
3. Menezes M, Aras M. (2009). Prosthodontic awareness and fulfillment of prosthodontic need in rural areas of Goa. *J. Indian Dental Ass*, 11,368.
4. Chandrima C, Gunjan S. (2007) Hijra status in India. In: Chatterjee C, editor. Vulnerable groups in India. 1st ed. Mumbai: Publisher Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes. pp. 1–2.

5. Sanders AE, Spencer AJ.(2004) Social inequality in perceived oral health among adults in Australia. *Aust N Z J Public Health*. 28:159–66.
6. Khan SA, Dawani N, Bilal S (2012). Perceptions and myths regarding oral health care amongst strata of low socio economic community in Karachi. Pakistan. *J Pakistan Med. Ass*, 62(11) 1198-203.
7. Hongal S, Torwane NA, Goel P, Byarakele C, Mishra P, Jain S. (2014). Oral health – related knowledge, attitude and practices among eunuchs (hijras) residing in Bhopal City, Madhya Pradesh, India: A cross – sectional questionnaire survey. *J Indian SocPeriodontol* 18,624-631.

**Cite this article:**

**Mahendirakumar Nagarajan, Vijitha Srinivasan, Krishnaraj Ranganathan.** Prevalence of Loss of Teeth Among Gay, Bisexuals And Transgenders Populations In Karaikal, Puducherry, India. *Acta Biomedica Scientia*,2017;4(2):82-84.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21276/abs.2017.4.2.7>



**Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International**