

Editorial

CARIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Caries is an infectious disease affecting the organic and inorganic tissues of the teeth. According to the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019, caries is the most frequently affecting condition in about 3.5 billion people worldwide, who had oral diseases.

If not prevented or treated in a timely manner, it may significantly affect the oral health and may have a greater impact on the economy of the individual as well as the country. The prevalence of dental caries is on the rise in most developing countries. The most probable reasons for the increased prevalence may be access to cariogenic diet, minimum exposure to fluorides and unaffordability of the dental procedures.

Preventive aspects of managing the caries problem are mandatory. The different risk factors should be addressed by public health interventions. Oral hygiene should be improved. Healthy eating habits may be encouraged, and access to fluoride-containing products may be enhanced. In addition to these, periodic dental checkups are necessary, and the use of fissure sealants is proposed on the tooth surfaces susceptible to dental caries.

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