**ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** Oral health has a significant impact on quality of life. The elementary workers belong to the lower socioeconomic group. The health of workers often goes uncared for due to their stressful working conditions, busy schedules, poor economic conditions and hence prone for unfulfilled treatment needs. This creates the need to assess their oral health status and treatment needs. **Aim:** The aim of the study is to assess the oral health status and treatment needs among elementary workers in an educational institution at Tiruchengode, Tamil Nadu.

**Methodology:** A descriptive cross-sectional survey was conducted to assess the oral health status and treatment needs of 600 elementary workers in an educational institution at Tiruchengode, Tamil Nadu. The study subjects were recruited by random sampling and the data was collected using a questionnaire and World Health Organization (WHO) Oral Health Assessment Form 1997. The collected data was subjected to statistical analysis using, Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 20.

**Results:** Among the elementary workers included in the study 411(68%) were males and 189(32%) were females. About 5.33% of the study subjects had abnormal oral mucosal conditions. Over 19% of workers used neem stick to clean their teeth. About 66% of elementary worker had periodontal diseases. The prevalence of dental caries among the study population exhibited a mean Decayed Missing Filled Teeth (DMFT) of 3.58±4.73.

**Conclusion:** The elementary workers do suffer from various oral health problems like dental caries and periodontal disease. It is observed that continuous professional research and health care development is essential to improve their overall health.

**Key words:** Elementary workers, Oral health status, Treatment needs.