
Oral health literacy- A tool to achieve successful clinical outcome.**Prof (Dr). Ramesh Nagarajappa^{1*}, Dr. Gayathri Ramesh²**¹Department of Public Health Dentistry, Institute of Dental Sciences, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (Deemed to be University), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.²Department of Dentistry, Chamarajanagar Institute of Medical Sciences, Chamarajanagar, Karnataka, India.

Like general wellbeing proficiency, oral health literacy (OHL) is strongly associated with oral health behaviour and outcome. Fundamentally, it refers to the degree to which individuals have the ability to acquire, process and comprehend essential oral health information and services needed to make appropriate oral health choices. Oral health literacy is an interaction among culture and society, the health and education system, language and oral health outcomes. Knowledge regarding the maintenance and protection of oral health can act as a guide for general persons for taking appropriate consideration of their oral cavity and improvement of oral health status. Individuals who have recently experienced any sort of dental illnesses and have visited dental specialists, will have better understanding and awareness regarding the pain and complications associated with oral health problems. Restricted OHL can act as a barrier to accomplish better oral health outcomes. People with low OHL won't know about antagonistic impacts related associated with frequent meal snacking, irregular and faulty brushing technique, excessive consumption of carbohydrate food and beverages, ill effects of use of tobacco and alcohol consumption on oral health which in turn will lead to cause various dental problems starting from dental caries to more severe oral health issues like carcinoma. Hence better oral health literacy is required for having thorough understanding and knowledge in regards to significance of good oral health, its promotion and prevention of oral diseases.

Keywords: oral health literacy, oral diseases, prevention (maximum 6 words)**Biography:**

Prof (Dr). Ramesh Nagarajappa, graduated from the prestigious Bapuji Dental College and Hospital, Davangere, India in 1999. I am presently working as a Professor and Head, in the Department of Public Health Dentistry affiliated to Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (Deemed to be University) at Bhubaneswar in India. I have a post-graduation teaching experience of over 22 years and guiding both PhD and MDS students. I have also authored 132 publications in various international and national reputed journals. Been a regular reviewer too in many journals. I do have an experience of delivering scientific presentations and chairing scientific sessions in various conferences.