

## Dental need and demand

**Need:** It is an important concept in public health. It is used in the planning and management of health services including health improvement, resources allocation and equity.

**Need for care** is defined as the quantity of dental treatment which should be available over a time period for people to be certified dentally healthy.

There are various definition of need. There are four categories of need:

1-Normative need (defined by the professional)

Is that which the professional defines as need in any given situation

2-Felt need (Perceived need)

This reflects the individual own assessment of his or her requirement for health care. It is equated with want.

3-Expressed need (demand):

This is felt need is converted in to action by seeking care

**Demand:** is the expression by a patient or the public of desire to receive health care related to the perceived needs.

4-Comparative need, which is assessed by comparing care received by different people with similar characteristics.

The methods of assessment of treatment need has been through:

1-Clinical examination

2-Measuring patient demand for treatment.

3-Survey system to determine oral health status of the population

**Utilization:** is the actual attendance by members of the public at dental treatment facilities to receive dental care.

**Factors affecting dental demands:**

1-Age: Utilization are lowest in children < 5 years and in person >65 years.

2-Gender: female more than male but in some age and education, male= female

3-Education: Utilization increased with increasing the level of education.

4-Socioeconomic status: higher social class more than low social class. This is because higher social class often related to high income and good educational level.

5-Occupation: Persons in professional occupation visit their dentist more than nonskilled manual worker.

6-Residence: Urban area more than rural area.

The larger community the greater the utilization rate for dental services.

**Dental manpower:**

**Manpower:** defined as individual with a kind of knowledge, skill and attitude need to achieve predetermined health target and ultimately health status objective.

**Dental health manpower planning:** has been defined as the process of estimating the number of persons and the kind of knowledge and skills the need to achieve predetermined dental health targets and optimal improvements in dental health of the population.

Dental health manpower planning involves:

- 1-Analysis and projections of dental health needs and demands for population which obtained from epidemiological surveys and treatment records.
- 2-Assessment of present dental health manpower availability and its pattern of utilization.
- 3-Formulation of policy.
- 4-Estimation of future manpower requirements.

Book: Essential of Preventive and Community Dentistry

