

Short Communication

A Profile of Snakebite Cases Admitted to a Major Hospital in Dharwad, Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Incidence of snakebite is common worldwide. Morbidity and mortality related to snakebite is considered as a major public health problem in rural India.

The present study highlights the demographic characteristics of snakebite cases in Dharwad, Karnataka, which reflects rural India. All snakebite cases admitted during a retrospective period of 4 years were selected. Total 93 cases were recorded and analyzed.

Nearly 64% of the victims were in the age group of 21-40 years and males comprised 75% cases. Majority of the incidents involved outdoor workers. Lower limbs were the most common site of bite, accounting for 70% of cases. First-aid measures were not undertaken in 95% of cases.

This study highlights the sociological impact of snakebites, and suggests certain preventive measures to reduce snakebite morbidity and mortality, especially in rural India.

Key Words: Snakebite; Dharwad Karnataka