

## A COMPARISON BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN RESIDENTS ATTENDING BASRAH DENTAL COLLEGE SOUTH OF IRAQ FOR TOOTH EXTRACTION BETWEEN 2018-2021 AND ITS RELATION TO THE DENTAL HEALTH CARE SITUATION IN IRAQ

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### Abstract

Most studies confirmed caries are the main cause of tooth extraction in urban and rural areas, especially in young people. There is a relationship between the level of education and dental extraction, particularly in rural areas. In this cross-sectional examination overall 1257 patients were treated in the teaching clinic of the oral and maxillofacial surgery department, College of Dentistry, the University of Basrah between 2018-2021. Data were collected from patients' data after taking the agreement of the ethical committee in the college. The comparisons include age, gender, educational level, occupation, chief complaint, diagnosis, and tooth site. reasons and pattern of tooth loss were recorded and data were computed on SPSS. Version 20. The numbers of tooth extraction in urban and rural were very close 632(50.3%) and 624(49.7%) extractions respectively. The male to female percentage was 38.2 %, 61.8% respectively and the highest number of extractions was observed in females in rural areas most of the patients are a housewife. Tooth extraction has seen more in the third, fourth and fifth decade than other age groups 20.4%, 22%, 19.9% respectively. A significant difference between education and dental extraction was noted between urban and rural areas. The main complaint was for prosthetic therapy 45.3% and 43.2% because of pain. The largest proportion considered as the main cause of extraction was dental caries consequences of 80.5% and the lowest 16.9% from periodontal disease.

**Keywords:** Extraction, Rural, Urban, dental health care, First Molar.

### Introduction

The College of Dentistry is an essential entity of Basrah University in Iraq, established an educational and training program in 2005 and has provided a variety of free dental services to the community. Basrah dental college received 12134 patients between 2018-2021 and 11143 patients who were treated in the teaching clinics in different departments; the majority of patients attended the college for seeking conservative treatment 41% then periodontics treatment 19.1% followed by tooth extraction 12.7% and other dental treatments. Patients seeking extraction in oral and maxillofacial surgery department 1257 patients. As with dental educational institutions, dual benefits for students and patients are achieved by providing training opportunities for students and fulfilling the treatment needs of the patients.

The position of the college between the centre of Basrah and the nearby rural areas like Abil Al-Kaseeb, Al Zubair, Al Hartha and Shatti Arab, allows the patients from urban and rural areas to visit the college for dental treatment, in addition to the different types of treatment which consider be-

ing free comparing with the private clinics' prices, also, the treatment occurs under the supervision of specialists in each department; all of the above played an important role in encouraging the patients to visit it for treatment. Many studies around the world indicate that tooth decay, gum disease, trauma, orthodontics and prosthetics are the main causes of tooth extraction. Many have found that caries is the primary reason for tooth extractions in young people <sup>1</sup>. Other studies maintain that caries and periodontal disease are having the responsibility for tooth loss <sup>2</sup>, & still, other researchers found that periodontal disease is the primary cause of teeth extractions in elderly patients <sup>3</sup>. Socio-economic status is associated with dental caries which is the main cause of tooth extraction, affects the oral health of elderly people <sup>4</sup>.

While decay and periodontitis are the most reasons for tooth extractions, while age, gender, socio-economic, behavioural and attitudinal characteristics tend to influence the tooth status of the population; additional causes the studies have mentioned that people with low income and low