



GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

SKIN HEALTH AWARENESS- ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIES AT UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

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1.Introduction: World Health Organization (WHO) and International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) are working relentlessly on projects and opportunities in strengthening Global Skin Health. We started in our own humble way, to assess skin health awareness and explore remedies in our patients at our centre.

2. Objective: Global Skin Health is a novel initiative to help control skin health and diseases. In India with poor penetration of government health programs and improper budgetary utilization, it is imperative for health planners to work out how best to formulate and deliver.

3. Materials and Methods: A pretested questionnaire was administered to 1000 consecutive patients visiting Dermatology Out-Patients from July,2018 to August,2018 of varied background. The questions ranged from –skin malignancies, Senile Pruritus, family itch, psoriasis, identification of leprosy lesions, safe sun practices, reaching a dermatologist versus a general practitioner, vitiligo- myths and treatment, tinea infections, awareness of HIV features, emotional problems, financial burden and loss of productivity. Relevant investigations when required were done.

4.Results: Out of 1000 questionnaires distributed, 908 returned. New cases of Hansen's disease still come and bring an affected contact. Every tinea patient, from both urban and rural background has one or more affected family member. Vitiligo and psoriasis patients suffer anxiety and marital discords. Hazards of fairness cream and of fairness treatments by quacks are common. Dermatologists are found affordable by only 23% of patients. Detailed results will be discussed.

5. Conclusions: Stronger coordination with Government of India, WHO and ILDS is required to achieve a healthy Skin. Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL) is running various programs e.g. Skin Health Day, Vitiligo Day, Psoriasis Day, HIV day and others to sensitize masses throughout India. A lot needs to be done. Ways and strategies are discussed.

