

## A Study to Identify the Prevalence of Health Problems on Consanguineous Marriage among People in Rural Community, Salem

A. Prabhakaran\*

Department of Community health nursing, Vinayaka Missions Annapoorana College of nursing, Salem.

**Corresponding author:** \*A. Prabhakaran, Department of Community health nursing, Vinayaka Missions Annapoorana College of nursing, Salem.

### Abstract

A descriptive cross study was undertaken to identify the prevalence of health problems on consanguineous marriage among people in Kondalampatty, Salem. 50 samples were selected by purposive sampling technique and data was collected by using check-list. The findings were analyzed by using descriptive study. Highest percentage (36%) belonged to age group of 31-40 years and majority (36%) of the people had high school education. Highest percentage (54%) of them was daily wagger and majority (58%) of the people was taking mixed diet. Most (52%) of the people were from joint family. However 56% of the people belong to Hindus and highest percentage (58%) of the people had marriage on above 22 years. Most (58%) of the people had normal delivery and majority (56%) of the people had two children.

Area wise distribution of according to the prevalence and health problems of consanguineous marriage among people shows that highest percentage (72.09%) of the people had nil health problems. However, 27.91% of them had health problems due to consanguineous marriage.

Percentage wise analysis of the prevalence and health problems of consanguineous marriage among people reveals that highest (50%) of the people had abortion, (48%) of the children had polydactyl, (52%) of the children had mental retardation, (52%) of the children had learning disability, (46%) of the children had fits, (26%) of the children had undescended testis.

**Keywords:** Consanguineous Marriage, Rural Community, Salem

### Introduction

**“Happiness in marriage is a moment by moment choice. A decision to love, forgives, grow and grow old together.”**

**-Fawn Weaver**

Marriage is a social, religious, spiritual and legal union of individuals. Wedding ceremonies are an important feature of any culture. They can mark the beginning of a new life, the joining of two families or act as

a public confirmation of the love between two people. Indian marriages are deemed almost necessary in the Indian society. Arranging a marriage is the responsibility of Indian parents and other relatives of both bride and groom. In India, there is no greater event in a family than a wedding. (Ramchandran. K, 2015)

The word consanguineous is derived from Latin word where "con" means shared and

"sanguine" means blood. Consanguinity means relationship between two people sharing same ancestors or same blood. In general relation with mother, father, brother or sister is termed as incest by law. But marriages between first cousins are accepted in many of the societies. In Arab Muslims marriage of man and his father's brother's daughter is preferred; in South India it's the man and mother's brother's daughter and uncle and niece union in Judaism. Such marriages are preferred because of various reasons like fear of marrying with stranger, increasing family bonding, restricting wealth in family alone etc. If one looks at consanguinity in India, 14% of marriages in India are consanguineous with maximum of 46% of marriages in South India being consanguineous. (Chandak. H, 2014)

In societies where marriage is nearly universal and the fertility process is almost entirely through marital union, the factors associated with the occurrence of marriage and through it the reproduction and rearing of children, need to be continuously assessed. Marriage in Indian society is a religious duty. Consanguineous marriage is more common in India, especially in rural area where individuals prefer to marry within their clan. Consanguineous unions range from cousin to cousin to more distant relatedness. Children of such a marriage are greater risk of being homozygous for a harmful gene and consanguinity who suffer autosomal recessive genetic disorders. (Tamiin .H, 2014)

Consanguineous marriages have been practiced around the globe by many societies from time immemorial, particularly in South India. Consanguineous marriages play a major role in the health of a population, and diseases leading to mortality of the progeny are a consequence of detrimental recessive genes. Among determinants of the structure of human populations consanguineous marriages can be useful in determining to what extent they influence the genetic structure of the population. This knowledge may be gained by comparing the reproductive performance of related and non-related couples. (Mohavedian. A.H, 2014)

**Statement of the Problem**

A study to identify the prevalence of health problem on consanguineous marriage among people residing in selected rural community.

**Objectives**

- To identify the prevalence of health problems on consanguineous marriage.

**Results and discussion**

Data were collected from 50 people and data obtained was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. Based on the findings of the study it can be summarized that, highest percentage (36%) belonged to age group of 31-40 years, Majority (36%) of the people had high school education, highest percentage (54%) of them were daily wager.

<b>Research and Approach</b>	: A descriptive study design with cross sectional survey approach
<b>Setting</b>	: Research was conducted in Kondalampatty Village, Salem, Tamil Nadu.
<b>Sampling Technique</b>	: Purposive sampling technique was adopted to draw the sample.
<b>(a)Sample size</b>	: The total samples of the study consists of 50 Mothers
<b>Tools of Research</b>	: Closed ended questionnaire was used to identify the prevalence of health problems among mothers.

**Table 1.1: Area wise analysis of prevalence of health problems of consanguineous marriage among people (N = 50).**

Sr. No.	Items	Number of health problems	Percentage	Nil health problems	Percentage
1	Mothers health problems	77	38.5%	123	61.5%
<b>Children health problems</b>					
2	Physical disorder	46	30.6%	104	69.4%
3	Mental disorder	47	31.3%	103	68.7%
4	Congenital disorder	74	21.1%	276	78.9%
5	Central nervous system disorder	62	31%	138	69%
6	Genito urinary disorder	15	15%	85	85%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>27.91%</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>72.09%</b>

Majority (58%) of the people were taking mixed diet, (52%) of the people were from joint family and highest percentage (58%) of the people had marriage on above 22 years. Most (58%) of the people had normal delivery and (56%) of the people had two children. Highest percentage (31.3%) of the children had mental disorder, (50%) of the mother had abortion and (48%) of the children had polydactyl. Majority (52%) of the children had mental retardation, (52%) of the children had learning disability, (46%) of the children had fits and (26%) of the children had undescended testis.

From the findings it shows that area wise analysis of prevalence of health problems on consanguineous marriage among people shows that the highest percentage (38.5%) of the mothers had health problems. Area wise analysis of prevalence of health problems on consanguineous marriage among people shows that the highest percentage (31.3%) of the children had mental disorder and 31% of the children had central nervous system disorder. However 30.6% of the children had physical disorder and 21.1% of them had congenital disorder. Further, 15% of the children had Genito urinary disorder.

The overall area wise analysis of prevalence of health problems on consanguineous marriage among people shows that highest

percentage (72.09%) of the people had nil health problems. However, 27.91% of them had health problems due to consanguineous marriage.

### Conclusion

The result reveals that the highest percentage (72.09%) of the people had nil health problems and lowest percentage (27.91%) of them had health problems due to consanguineous marriage.

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