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FIELD SURVEY ON THE HEALTH OF ADULTS AND GERIATRIC POPULATION OF AL RASHIDIA VILLAGES IN BAGHDAD

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مسح ميداني عن صحة البالغين والمسنين من سكنة قرى ناحية الراشدية / بغداد
الخلاصة:

شمل المسح دراسة ٩٠٥ فرد بلغت نسبة المسنين منهم ٩.٤٪ فقط. أظهرت النتائج ان نسبة المنزوجين من عموم العينة كانت ٣٠.٦٪ وأن ٢١.١٪ من عموم العينة كانوا فلاحين و ٢٤.٣٪ ربات بيوت بينما كان ٢١٪ من أفراد العينة أميين و ١٥.١٪ كانوا من المدخنين و ١٠.٤٪ لديهم أحد الأمراض المزمنة. خرجت الدراسة بتوصيات.

SUMMARY:

The survey was carried out on 905 individuals of whom 9.3% were of the geriatric group, the survey shows that 30.6% of total sample were married 21.1% of them were farmers, 24.3% were housewives, 21% of total population were illiterate, 15.1% were smokers and 10.4% had one of the chronic diseases, recommendations are given.

INTRODUCTION:

Field surveys are considered to be an important source of information⁽¹⁾ that can be used in planning for health status of the communities through which direct communications with the population and real touch of different problems take place^(2,3). Such field practice has also its training purposes for medical students of different gradu-

ate levels. Adult population have their special problems and needs concerning their social, cultural, psychological and health status⁽⁵⁾, this survey was designed to study the availability and distribution of these different factors.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

- 1- The survey was carried out in Al Rashidia Villages in Baghdad from 31 July up to 11th August 1995 on 905 individuals of the adults and geriatric groups.
- 2- Group of post graduate medical students, well trained and supervised by authors were responsible for clinical examination and collecting of data.
- 3- History, physical examination and interview questionnaire were done.
- 4- Data collection, ordering and statistical analysis were done.

RESULTS:

The results was shown on tables 1, 2, 3, 4

Table 1: Frequency distribution according to the age and sex

age	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
6 - 20	150	16.5	140	15.4	290	31.9
21 - 35	200	22.0	190	20.9	390	42.9
36 - 50	75	8.8	65	7.1	140	15.9
51 +	51	5.6	34	3.7	85	9.3
Total	476	52.0	429	47.4	905	100

Table 2: Frequency distribution according to the marital status

Marital status	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Single	311	34.3	253	27.9	564	62.3
Married	179	19.7	98	10.8	277	30.6
Husband or wife die	15	1.6	40	5.8	55	6.0
Divorced	6	0.66	3	0.3	9	0.9
Total	511	55.2	394	44.8	905	100

Table 3: Frequency distribution according to occupation

Occupation	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Farmer	110	12.1	81	8.9	191	21.1
House wife	-	-	220	24.3	220	24.3
Student	211	23.1	101	11.1	312	34.4
Government worker	54	5.9	-	-	54	5.9
Military	62	6.8	-	-	62	6.8
Unskilled worker	51	5.6	-	-	51	5.6
Other	8	0.88	7	0.7	15	1.6

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Table 4: Frequency distribution according to level of education

Level of education	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Illiterate	70	7.7	120	13.2	190	20.9
Read only	85	9.3	58	6.4	143	15.8
Primary school	335	25.9	98	10.8	433	47.8
Secondary school	90	9.9	15	1.6	105	11.6
Institute	17	1.8	3	0.3	20	2.2
University	12	1.3	2	0.2	14	1.5
Total	609	67.5	296	32.5	905	

Table 5: Frequency distribution according to presence or absence of smoking, Alcohol drinking, chronic and hereditary diseases

Presence of	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Smoking	100	11.0	42	4.6	142	15.6
Alcohol drinking	10	1.1	-	-	10	1.1
Chronic diseases	49	5.4	45	4.9	94	10.3
Hereditary diseases	9	0.9	11	1.2	20	2.2

Table 6: Frequency distribution according to the type of disease

Disease	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Hypertension	25	5.4	12	1.3	37	4.0
C.N.S disease	9	0.9	10	1.1	19	2.0
Bone and muscle disease	19	2	30	3.3	49	5.4
G.I.T	23	2.5	25	2.7	48	5.3
G.U.T	14	1.5	20	2.2	34	3.7
Respiratory system	20	2.2	13	1.4	33	3.6
Cardio vascular system	10	1.1	4	0.4	14	1.5
Liver + Lymphatic system	2	2.2	4	0.4	6	0.6
Blood	13	1.4	30	3.3	43	4.7
Eye	20	2.2	18	4.1	38	4.1
ENT	15	1.6	19	2.0	34	3.7
Skin	20	2.2	21	2.3	41	4.5
Congenital malformation	2	0.2	2	0.2	4	0.4
Endocrine	6	0.6	20	2.2	26	2.8

DISCUSSION:

The results of the survey show that geriatric population constitute low percentages in comparison with Al Buatha Village similar group of population⁽⁶⁾ while it was much higher than in Al Sheha Village in Baghdad⁽⁷⁾ this result reflects the high productivity of the population because of their young age.

Regarding the marital status, the study shows percentages of single people compared to the lower number of married people which agree with other study⁽⁸⁾ but disagree with (Brieger, 1987)⁽⁹⁾, this result may be due to large number of younger age individuals included in this study especially below 20 years of age or it may be due to difficulty and expressiveness of marriage in our known circumstances.

Distribution of population according to occupations shows that they were mainly farmers, students and housewives, it was in agreement with other^(10,11) studies because the population mainly lived in agricultural environment.

Prevalence of smoking and Alcohol habits is as similar as in other Baghdad villages^(6,7), yet it is less in comparison with (Hikmet, 1991)⁽¹²⁾ which reflects that smoking and drinking were of limited spread which is a good indicator for health status. Illiteracy was a common problem in this village, it was nearly similar to (Alkafagi, 1988)⁽¹³⁾ and Hamman Al All study, 1992⁽¹⁴⁾, this result gives us an alarm to deal with this increasing phenomena. Chronic diseases and hereditary diseases prevalence were as high as it was found in other studies^(15,16), hematological,

nutritional disorders and infectious diseases were common which indicate the low education, poor nutritional status, low sanitation and low personal hygiene.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1- Health education about smoking, illiteracy, infectious diseases and nutrition.
- 2- To start a cooperation between different ministries in order to control different zoonotic diseases.
- 3- To provide patients with chronic diseases with regular, sufficient amount of drugs.

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