Literacy is one of the determinants of health. In order to achieve health one should understand the preventive and curative measures available and methods to utilize the same which in turn demands health literacy. Health literacy is a set of understandings and skills that contribute to health and wellbeing. Health Literacy is inextricably linked to the betterment of oral health. Efforts to reduce costs spent to treat oral diseases and oral health disparities cannot succeed without simultaneous improvements in health literacy of the public, health care providers and policy makers, as all these factors influence the understanding of dental concepts, share personal and health information with providers, participate in their health care and that of their children, navigate the health care system, including locating providers and services, act on health related news and announcements. Hence, the need of the hour is to improve the critical concept of oral health literacy which is a pathway to decrease the disparities in oral health and achieve oral health equity.

Sujatha BK
Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Center, India

Notes:

sweetsujatha123@gmail.com