

## PREVALENCE OF BRONCHIAL ASTHMA IN 6 TO 17 YEARS OLD SCHOOL CHILDREN OF URBAN CHENNAI IN LOWER MIDDLE CLASS/LOWER INCOME GROUPS

### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** Aim of the study is to determine the prevalence of asthma among school children between 6 to 17 years in Lower Middle Class / Lower Income Groups of urban Chennai and to analyse the various risk factors associated with those diagnosed with asthma.

**Methods:** We surveyed 1894 school children between 6 to 17 years using the questionnaires. For children between 6 to 12 years, the parents were made to answer and for children between 13 to 17 years, the children themselves answered the questionnaires. The children whose answer is Yes to at least one of the four questions were considered as probable asthmatics and the diagnosis of asthma in those identified as probable asthmatic was done by detailed history and clinical examination.

**Results :** Out of 1894 children we surveyed, 156 children were considered as probable asthmatics and 85 children were diagnosed as asthmatics. The prevalence of bronchial asthma was 4.5%. There is a significant correlation between family H/O asthma and asthma and also there is a significant correlation between allergic rhinitis and asthma. Obesity is a significant comorbidity associated with asthma.

**Conclusion:** Easy Breathing Survey questionnaires and detailed history and clinical examination can be used for estimating prevalence of asthma in large population.