

The skin is not a simple inert covering of the body but a sensitive dynamic boundary and is an important organ of social contact. Body image, which is deeply rooted within the culture of any given social group, is profoundly affected by the appearance of the skin and its associated structures (*Alam and Dover, 2001*).

Epidemiological studies offers one of the most powerful and direct methods evaluating the cause of skin diseases in human populations, one definition of it therefore "the study of distribution and causes of diseases in human population as well as describing the natural history and prognosis of diseases and evaluation interventions which seek to prevent or treat diseases" (*Sackett et al., 1997*).

Because skin diseases are so common, a little bit of morbidity affecting a lot of people can add up to far more than a lot of morbidity affecting only a few people. This makes skin diseases very important from the epidemiology studies point of view (*Williams et al., 1997*).

The type and the magnitude of a disease in any community reflect the genetic distribution of its members, the socioeconomic status, the nutrition, and the crowding. The poor standards of hygiene and the climate are important factors for the distribution and occurrence of skin diseases; moreover they are influenced by the quality of the available medical care (*Abdel Hafez et al., 2003*).

Children are vulnerable to many skin diseases, more prone to infections due to their household and school environment especially in overcrowded or poor socioeconomic levels (*Taplin et al., 1991*). Only limited information is available about the frequency of specific skin diseases (*Julian, 1999*).

School surveys are useful indicators of prevalence of various skin diseases and status of health and hygiene of the society; also they provide an

estimate of the magnitude and demographic determinants of those who seek medical care (*Pasricha and Seetharan, 2006*).

Epidemiological studies in pediatric skin diseases are few. Collectively, these surveys suggest that around one-fifth to one-quarter of school children have one or more skin diseases. Skin examination surveys are likely to estimate the true burden of skin diseases in children (*David et al., 2005*).

In addition to describing the burden and causes of skin diseases in population, clinical epidemiology is concerned with describing the natural history and prognosis of diseases and evaluating interventions which seek to prevent or treat diseases (*Williams, 2004*).