Influence of Environmental Stress and Male Infertility-A Clinical Evaluation

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Abstract

Infertility is becoming a significant problem globally. To find out the epidemiology of infertility particularly male infertility a study was carried out in a South Indian state. In the present study from the couples visiting a fertility clinic in the Kerala state of India for primary infertility treatment and consultation 750 families were chosen for socio-demographic and clinical study. From the study it was observed that 55.87% of males, 41.33% of females, 2.13% of both partners and 0.67% of unknown factors are responsible for infertility. The socio-demographic and clinical study of the identified infertile males showed that all are literate, and 73.98% were in the age group 31-40 years, 78.24% were unable to attain fatherhood within 5 years after marriage. Among the 419 males identified with infertility 78.26% are working as software professionals using computers, laptops, Wi-Fi ambience, mobile phones and other microwave radiating devices for over 8 hours per day either in India or abroad having every chance of exposure to electromagnetic radiofrequency radiation (nonionizing radiations) and thermal emission. Clinical evaluation of the infertile males showed that deformities in the semen is the major reason (80.19%) for infertility. However other factors like endocrine dysfunctions (10.26%), and varicoceole in genital part (4.62%) also influence the immunity. In the present survey, four types of sperm disorders were observed. This include oligoasthenoteratozoospermia (OAT) in 35% of the cases, asthenoteratozoospermia (AT) in 40% of the sample, Teratospermia (T) in 5% of the males and mixed of all these problems in 13 percent of males. The study showed that the incidence of Asthenoteratozoospermia is significantly higher (P<0.05) than the other disorders. Next to AT, OAT prevalence is high. The long hours of exposure to microwave radiation emitting digital devices are believed to induce stress oxidative changes in male reproductive physiology followed by DNA damage in the sperm cells thereby reducing male infertility. Lifestyle changes like food habit, dress code, obesity, hormonal changes, work pressure, and certain medications may be the other reasons to strengthen semen defects. Due to COVID-19 lockdown online learning and job work carried out through mobile phones, computer laptops, and Wi-Fi ambience and other radiation-emitting gadgets for several hours. So children and reproductive adults involved in online programme for several hours should plan for their reproductive safety.

Keywords: Teratospermia; Asthenoteratozoospermia; Male Infertility; Oligoasthenteteratozoospermia; Radiations

Introduction

Infertility is the inability of a sexually active, non-contracepting couple to achieve pregnancy in one year [1]. Infertility, by itself, does not threaten physical health but has a substantial impact on the psychological and social well-being of couples. Infertility can result in several emotional stresses. Couples often describe the hope and despair cycle, as they hope each month that they will finally conceive, then despair when once again, it does not happen. Men and women experience the stress and grief in marital life because of infertile marriage. Hence infertility is of public health importance, especially in developing countries, because of its high prevalence and its severe social implications. Global estimates report that 60-80 million couples suffer from infertility every year. In the infertile family that men are responsible for 40% infertility, women also contribute 40% and 20% of both sexes [2]. According to an estimate, the infertile Indian population is expected to touch billions by 2035 [3]. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has reported that over 12-18 million couples in India are developing infertility every year. It is stated that while the sperm count of a normal Indian adult male used to be 60 million/ml three decades ago, it now stands at around 20 million/ml. It was observed that male infertility is the primary reason for the inability to conceive, especially between the age group of 29 to 35 due to a combination of low sperm concentration or reduced sperm motility or abnormal morphology[4]. Many studies suggest that the quality of semen is declining across the world. A meta-analysis of 61 articles published demonstrates a clear reduction in sperm counts from 113X106 to 66X106 and semen volume from 3.4 to 2.75 ml between 1940 and 1990 [5]. These findings have been confirmed by subsequent studies in the United Kingdom [6,7] France [8], and New Zealand [9]. In Finland also the global trend of impaired male reproductive health prevails [10]. The outcome of all these studies conclude that globally a serious problem is blooming about the deterioration semen
parameters. The deterioration in semen quality is also linked to the increase in testicular cancer, and changes in lifestyle factors, such as smoking, alcohol, drug use and obesity [5-10]. In addition to lifestyle modifications, occupational exposure plays an important role in semen DNA fragmentation (SDF) and male infertility [11]. Globally, 15-70% impotency in couples male factors is responsible [12,13]. Though semen analysis is the cornerstone for male infertility assessment, changes in sperm DNA is an important acumen to analyse the reason to predict the reproductive outcome [14]. A scientometric analysis of 2121 articles related to sperm DNA fragmentation (SDF) and male infertility shows that SDF starts even at the stage of spermatogenesis. The sperm DNA integrity in ejaculated sperm is very important for successful fertilization, embryo development, implantation and pregnancy [15]. The lack of thermoregulation of scrotal temperature causes testicular hyperthermia, which leads to genital heat stress. This is detrimental to spermatogenesis and results in spermatozoa of inferior quality. Both the epididymal sperm and testicular germ cells are sensitive to damage by heat stress [16]. Varicoceles also cause SDF and semen quality deterioration. Of the several reasons for varicocele development, heat stress, continuous sitting postures while operating laptop or mobile, radiation, and subsequent oxidative stress are important reasons [16,17].

Further, unhealthy lifestyle, socio-demographic factors lack of physical activity, occupational stress, pollution, poor diet, alcohol consumption, tobacco usage and smoking are the other factors responsible for the increased rate of infertility in men [18-21]. Abnormalities in the reproductive organs such as ductal obstruction, hypogonadotropic hypogonads, bilateral testicular atrophy, and viral orchitis can cause impotency but these are reversible [22]. In humans, for normal testicular function, the temperature in external genitalia requires a temperature of 2–4°C below body temperature, and this has been maintained by physiological mechanisms in male reproductive parts [23]. But continuous external thermal stress interferes with this function, and testicular tissues and epididymal region experiences oxidative stress affect the functions of the enzyme kinases in cellular metabolism and action leading to genotoxicity, genomic instability and oxidative stress [24-28]. Scrotal hyperthermia and impairment in spermatogenesis in young males is reported [29-34].

As human exposure to radiofrequency (RF) radiation from electronic devices, high-frequency dielectric and induction heaters, broadcast antennas, high power pulsed radars, and medical appliances and environmental pollutants Pollutants like pesticides, environmental toxins, spicy fast food from plastics, disturbs reproductive hormones and reproductive functions [36-38]. As the present generation is exposed to all these reproductive inhibitory intrusions from the external and internal environment it is essential to study this problem with immediate attention. To-day in many countries couples visiting the fertility clinics are increasing day by day and Fertility Centre (ART, IVF) and counseling center are sprouting in all places. Most of the couples registering for fertility treatment develop stress, hormonal dysfunctions, anxiety, depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and phobias [40-44]. India has become one of the major centres of this global fertility industry, with reproductive medical tourism becoming a significant activity. The Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation Bill is passed by the Government of India in 2020 [39] to regulate and provide ‘safe and ethical’ procedures to over 27 million infertile couples in India.

In the present study, the prevalence of male infertility and the associated reasons are studied using clinical survey and microscopical examination of semen parameters.

**Material and Methods**

**Sample Collection**

For the present study couples visiting the NCARE-IVF Centre, in South India for infertility treatment and consultation were chosen (Primary infertility-for first child). Among the visitors who opted for clinical evaluation were further short listed. In the short listed infertility ‘suspected’ cases between the period January 2016 to December 2016 a random selection of 750 couple’s clinical reports were screened with their consent following the ethical formalities without disclosing their identity.

The couples were interviewed to collect their socio-demographic, occupational, and infertility treatment details. From this screened couples, the male partners suspected for fatherhood failure were further interviewed based on their clinical reports available and excluding the following problems like hysterectomy, vasectomy, sexual impotence or castration happening as a complication of a traffic or other incident, or a history of prostate cancer or cancer therapy (chemo and radiotherapy).

Among them 419 male partners have given their consent for further interviewing and they were interviewed using a questionnaire (A modified version of John Hopkins hospital, USA male infertility evaluation protocol). From this 419 identified infertile males samples, 100 males in the age group 20-45 years with a barren married life for more than an year were subjected to clinical semen analysis. Samples
were collected from this selected group at their convenience within a month after giving instructions about their pre-sample donating procedure followed in the IVF Centre.

The samples were collected in the morning by masturbating and ejaculating into a special container strictly adhering the standard protocol in an air conditioned chamber adjacent to the clinical laboratory, to limit the exposure of the semen to fluctuating temperature and to control the time between collection and analysis. The sample was collected after a minimum of 2 days and a maximum of 7 days of sexual abstinence. When additional samples were required, the number of days of sexual abstinence was constant as possible at each visit.

The instructions concerning the collection of the semen sample were given before collection. The man's name, age and personal code number, the period of abstinence, the date and time of collection, the completeness of the sample, any difficulties in producing the sample, and the interval recorded.

Sperm motility study

The semen sample of each donor was analyzed freshly without any storage. Sperm motility within semen was assessed as soon as possible after liquefaction of the sample, preferably within 30 minutes, following ejaculation, to limit the harmful effects of dehydration, pH, or changes in temperature on motility. Motility was assessed at 37°C. The wet preparation was placed in the cavity counting slide with a depth of 20 µL. Ten microliter drop was placed, and the drop was covered with 22 mm x 22 mm coverslip (area 484 mm²). The slides were examined with phase-contrast optics at 400 magnifications.

The slides were systematically scanned to avoid repeatedly viewing the same area by changing fields often. The fields based on the number of motile sperm seen were avoided (field choice was random). Scoring in a given field was at a random instant. Before the spermatozoa to swim into the field or grid to begin scoring was done. The motility of all spermatozoa within a defined area of the field was assessed. This was most easily achieved by using an eyepiece reticule. The portion of the field or grid to be scored from the sperm concentration was selected. Only on the top row of the grid, the sperm concentration was high. Scanning and count were done quickly to prevent possible errors in counting motile spermatozoa. Progressive motile cells, Non-progressive motile spermatozoa, and finally, immotile spermatozoa were counted. These three categories of sperm movement were scored at one time, and in larger areas of the grid. The number of spermatozoa in each motility category was tallied with the aid of a laboratory counter. About 200 spermatozoa in a total of at least five fields in each replicate were evaluated to achieve an acceptably low sampling error.

Only intact spermatozoa (defined as having a head and a tail) are counted for sperm concentration assessment. Motile pinheads were counted. If no spermatozoa are observed in the replicate wet preparations, azoospermia was suspected. The entire coverslip was scanned field-by-field systematically. Scanning was started from one corner along the x-axis to the opposite side, then in one field along the y-axis.

\[
SPERM\,CONCENTRATION = \frac{Number\,of\,motile\,sperm}{Total\,number\,of\,sperm} \times 100
\]

\[
ROGESSIVE\,(PR)\,\%(%) = \frac{Number\,of\,progressive\,sperm}{Total\,number\,of\,motile\,sperm} \times 100
\]

\[
NON\,PROGRESSIVE\,(NP)\,\%(%) = \frac{Number\,of\,nonprogressive\,sperm}{Total\,number\,of\,motile\,sperm} \times 100
\]

TOTAL\,MOTILITY\,(TV)\,\%(%) = Number\,of\,progressive\,sperm + Number\,of\,nonprogressive\,sperm

Sperm vitality study

The vitality of sperms was studied after staining with Nigrosin-eosin. The stain was prepared by dissolving 0.67 g of eosin Y (color index 45380) and 0.9 g of sodium chloride (NaCl) in 100 ml of purified water with gentle heating. Then added 10 g of nigrosin (color index 50420) to the 100 ml of eosin Y solution and boiled. After cooling to room temperature, the content was filtered through filter paper (e.g., 90 g/m²) to remove coarse and gelatinous precipitates and stored in a sealed dark-glass bottle.

The semen sample was mixed well. From this mixture, a 50 µl aliquot of semen was taken out and mixed with an equal volume of eosin-nigrosin suspension. For each suspension smear was made on a glass slide and allowed it to dry in air. The slides were examined immediately after drying, or later after mounting with a permanent non-aqueous mounting medium examined each slide with bright field optics at X1000 magnification and oil immersion. The number of stained (dead) or unstained (vital) cells was tallied with the aid of a laboratory counter. Two hundred spermatozoa were evaluated in each replicate to get an acceptably low sampling error. The average and difference of the two percentages of vital cells from the replicate slides were calculated.

Scoring

During scoring live spermatozoa were identified with had whiteheads, and dead spermatozoa with red or dark pink stain. Spermatozoa with a faint pink head were also assessed as alive. If the stain is limited to only a part of the neck region, and the rest of the
head area is unstained, this is considered a leaky neck membrane, not a sign of cell death and total membrane disintegration. These cells were also assessed as alive. These cells were evaluated as viable.

\[ \text{VITALITY} \% = \frac{\text{Number of viable sperm}}{\text{Total number of sperm}} \times 100 \]

Sperm morphology studies

Staining method

For studying the sperm morphology, Papanicolaou stain was used. The head got stained pale blue in the acrosomal region and dark blue in the post-acrosomal part. The midpiece showed some red staining, and the tail was stained blue or reddish. Excess residual cytoplasm, usually located behind the head and around the midpiece, was stained pink or red (Papanicolaou stain) or reddish-orange (Shorr stain) dipping paper. The sperms on five areas on the slide were evaluated under the X100 oil-immersion bright-field objective. The healthy sperm was taken if the sperm head is smooth, regular contoured, and generally oval. They must have a well-defined acrosomal region comprising 40-70% of the head area. Categories of defects were noted. Defects in heads, Neck, and midpiece were recorded.

Results and Discussion

In the present study, couples visited the NCARE-IVF Centre, in the Kerala state of India between the period January 2016 to December 2016 for infertility treatment and consultation were chosen (Primary infertility). The couples were interviewed to collect their socio-demographic, occupational and infertility treatment details. From this screened couples, further sub screening was made to identify the couples who were unable to conceive after an year of marriage. They were further interviewed based on their clinical reports available and excluding the following problems like hysterectomy, vasectomy, sexual impotence or castration happening as a complication of a traffic or other incident, or a history of prostate cancer or cancer therapy (chemo and radiotherapy). Among them a total of 750 couples in the age group 20-45 years suffered with primary infertility. The infertility analysis of the couples revealed that 419 males (55.87%), 310 (41.33%) females, 16 (2.13%) both genders, and 5 (0.67%) couples with unknown reasons suffer with infertility (Table 1). In the study area males (55.87%) were found more responsible for infertility problems than women (41.33%). As reported earlier (5, 7, 10) males are more responsible for infertility than females in families. The males identified with the reasons for infertility (419 males) were interviewed for their socio-demographic characteristics and clinical facts (Table 2 and 3). The study revealed that all the infertile males are educated above school level and were predominantly in the age group 31-35 years (44.39%). Less than 6 percent of them suffers with life style aberrations like obesity, BMI, alcoholism, and smoking etc. The socio-demographic fact analysis shows that the males are with good literary rate and this may be the reason for high turn-out for infertility treatment. As the socio-demographic factors are reported [14-17] to be one of the factors responsible for infertility, in the present study also it was found to influence the development of semen disorders and reproductive hormones functional changes.

An analysis of clinical parameters showed that semen disorder (80.19%) is the major reason for infertile marriage (Table 3). The other parameters like varicocele (6.21%), sexual dysfunction (5.01%), endocrine disorders (10.29%), diseases (4.53%), seminal plasma abnormality (1.43), Laterogenic cause (3.10%), congenital diseases (0.48), antisperm-antibody (0.72%) and unexplainable reasons (5.01), Many workers also confirmed that semen disorders and associated cytological aberrations in sperm cells, damage to DNA are the major reasons for infertility in males [22, 27, 29]. Further the semen analysis of 100 samples randomly selected from the males with infertility problems revealed the factors responsible for semen disorders and what type of defects in spermatozoa interfere with infertility issues. The occupation of the males and semen disorders has a relationship. A critical analysis of the tested males showed that their working environment both in India and abroad with radiation, thermal stress, exposure to RF-EMF emissions from laptop computers, WI-FI ambience, mobile phones, or other electronic devices interferes with the physiological and biochemical functioning of male reproductive system and genital organs (Table 4, Figure 1 and 2). Among the 100 infertile males tested 48 percent were working abroad mostly in Middle East countries and returned to India on holidays, 38 percent are working in India in computer and information technology-related jobs and exposed to radiation emitting (RF-EMF) digital gadgets for more than 10 hours per day continuously or intermittently, 10
Table 1. Partners responsible for infertility in couples [Percentage] in the study area in India.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner responsible for infertility in couples</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>55.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>41.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both Male and Female</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>02.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown reasons</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>00.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. The relationship between different types of sperm Disorders and occupation of the infertile male [N=100].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation of the Males</th>
<th>Characteristics of sperm [%]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=100</td>
<td>Normo spermia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed abroad</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed In India</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor type jobs</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Clinical Parameters responsible for male infertility (Modified WHO guideline) [n=419].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Parameters responsible for male infertility (Modified WHO guideline)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.Sexual dysfunction and sexual abnormality(Ejaculation, erective problem)</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.Semen disorders</td>
<td>80.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.Varicocele</td>
<td>6.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.Testicular damage-disease-diabetes, mumps, etc.</td>
<td>4.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.Endocrine problems</td>
<td>10.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. congenital disease</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Laterogenic cause</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Seminal plasma abnormality</td>
<td>1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Acisperm antibody</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Unexplained infertility</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Showing socio-demographic details of identified infertile males [n=419].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Sub details of parameters</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Education level</td>
<td>a) Below school education</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Above school education</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Income level</td>
<td>a) High income group</td>
<td>36.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Middle income group</td>
<td>47.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) Low income group</td>
<td>15.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Life style</td>
<td>a) Users of alcohol, tobacco, smoke, other drugs</td>
<td>3.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Obesity</td>
<td>3.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) Emotional, doubtful, quarrelsome, aberrant behavior, depressive, negative altitude etc.</td>
<td>6.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Number of time/month co-habiting with wife</td>
<td>Less than 5 times</td>
<td>36.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More than 5 times</td>
<td>63.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Duration interval after marriage</td>
<td>2-3 years</td>
<td>31.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4-5 years</td>
<td>42.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6-7 years</td>
<td>4.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7-9 years</td>
<td>3.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 10 years</td>
<td>17.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Age of individual in years</td>
<td>20-25</td>
<td>6.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26-30</td>
<td>14.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31-35</td>
<td>44.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36-40</td>
<td>29.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40-45 and above</td>
<td>5.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1. Sperms with Normal and defective sperms.

Figure 2. SSperms with Normal and defective Head.
percent belonged to the labor group, and 4 percent are fishermen. Among the males working abroad, 64%, are doing computer related jobs, 21% in oil refineries, 11% in airports and transport related jobs and the rest, 4% are involved in other jobs.

A study on the occupation and prevalence of male infertility among the interviewed persons confirmed a relationship between infertility problems and their occupational environment. It is reported that the climate in Gulf nations are hot many days in a year and these workers are mostly sleeping and living in houses with less protection from environmental radiations. A study in Africa reported [45] that hot weather in Africa is the major reason for male infertility (63.7%). In human body scrotum, pampiniform plexus, and muscles play a role to reduce the body temperature in the genital region 2-4 degree below than the other region because the higher temperatures increases the testicular metabolism without a corresponding increase in blood supply, resulting in local hypoxia, varicoceles development and deleterious effects for the tissue[44-46]. Scrotothermia due to high ambient temperature affects spermatogenesis [47].

In the males studied 10 percent were from local labor groups, involved in bakery, catering, logistic and farm related work, and 4 percent are fishermen working in offshore fishing vessels. The incidence of infertility is less in males involved in fishing-related activity. Along with the above mentioned the ergonomic condition, co-factors like dietary habits, varicoceleseshormonal changes, less opportunity to co-habit with their spouses, and frequent masturbation were theminor reasons for their reduced sperm production.

Types of sperm disorders

In the present survey, four types of sperm disorders were noticed among the infertile males. They include oligoasthenoteratozoospermia (OAT) in 35% of the cases, Asthenoteratozoospermia (AT) in 45% of the sample, Teratospermia (T) in 10% of the males and mixed of all these problems in 6 percent of males. The study shows that the incidence of Asthenoteratozoospermia is significantly higher (P<0.05) than the other disorders (Table 4). Next to AT, OAT prevalence is high. The high occurrence of OAT and AT in 80% of the males are associated the functional damages in the scrotal part, epididymis, spermatogenesis, varicoceles and related hormonal activities oxidative stress disturbing the mitotic division of the stem cells located close to the basement membrane of the seminiferous tubules changes in DNA methylation and histone modification leading to DNA fragmentation were reported as the major reasons for sperm disorders [46-51].

The quality of the produced sperms is damaged by electromagnetic radiation emitted by mobile cellular phones, Wi-Fi networks a [52-54]. In the present study also, it is observed that male workers doing computer-related jobs are more prone to infertility problems than others as reported previously [54-56].

Oxidative stress (OS) also plays an independent role in male infertility, with 30% to 80% of infertile men having elevated seminal reactive oxygen species levels (ROS). ROS can negatively affect fertility via a number of pathways, including interference with capacitation and possible damage to the sperm membrane and DNA, which may impair the sperm's potential to fertilize an egg and develop into a healthy embryo [57]. The oxidative stress and associated molecular changes are responsible for 30%—80% of male infertility [58-60]. The RF radiations emitted from cell phones penetrate through the exposed tissues induces heat and oxidative stress [61], that led to alterations after one spermatogenic cycle in ejaculated sperm cells [62-57].

Recently due to COVID-19 lockdown, children are compelled to sit before mobile phone or computers even from the tender age for online study. So children and youth are made to sit for online courses under the thermal and radiation ambience of mobile phones, computer laptops, and Wi-Fi for long hours. So the reproductive functioning of such digital kids may be impaired in the future. According to US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the recommended safe level of radiation unit from a laptop exposure levels is between 0.5 milligauss (mG) and 2.5 mG. but this can be achieved if the following conditions are followed. If the laptop is kept by the user at a distance of 1 inch the user is exposed to a radiation unit of <0.1 up to 1.5 mG. Federal Communication Commission (FCC) a scientific legislative body of the US government has recommended a minimum distance of 20 cm between the laptop and the user. Further there is a protocol for safe mobile and Wi-Fi use. FCC of the U.S. Government, has given a guidelines that the Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) for Cellular Telephones must be less than 1.6-W/kg averaged over 1 gram of actual tissue (SAR value is a measure of the maximum energy absorbed by a unit of mass of exposed tissue of a person using a mobile phone, over a given time or more simply the power absorbed per unit mass). SAR value of a phone has to be mandatorily declared by the company that has made the phone but is it followed properly is a question. For example study shows that the mobile phone Xiaomi Mi A1 has SAR value of 1.75 W/kg which is found to be emitting the highest amount of radiation. If the SAR value from the mobile phone is high the
radiation is high. Whether this safety level is followed by children using mobile phone for online courses is to be monitored. The US Department of Health states that children and young people under 16 should be encouraged to use mobile phones for essential purposes only” and a medical doctors appeal (signed by more than 1,000 physicians) states “Children below the age of 8 should not use cell phones and cordless phones; children and adolescents between the ages 8 and 16 should also not use cell phones or only use them in the case of an emergency”.

**Conclusion**

The infertility analysis of the couples revealed that 55.87% of males, 41.33% of females, 2.13% of both genders, and 0.67% couples with unknown reasons are responsible for infertile marriage. The socio-demographic fact analysis shows that the males are with good literacy rate and this may be the reason for their high turn-out for infertility treatment. The socio-demographic factors were found to influence the development of semen disorders and reproductive hormones functionally. From the present study it is understood that the quality of the male gametes and spermatogenesis, and semen quality are deteriorated by heat, as well as radiations, from digital gadgets like computer laptop, mobile phones that are emitting RF-EMF radiations. In the present study four types of sperm disorders, oligoasthenoteratozoospermia (OAT) in 35% of the cases, Astenoteratozoospermia (AT) in 45% of the sample, Teratospermia (T) in 10% of the males and mixed of all these problems in 6 percent of males were noticed. The high occurrence of OAT and AT in 80% of the males are associated the functional damages in the scrotal part, epididymis, spermatogenesis, varicoceles and related hormonal actions oxidative stress disturbing themotic division of the stem cells located close to the basement membrane of the seminal tubes changes inDNA methylation and histone modificationleading to DNA fragmentation were reported as the major reasons for sperm disorders. Suchextrinsic factorsinduce oxidative stress and molecular damages in DNA. So along with semen analysis, molecular study at DNA, RNA and centriole level study must be made in males suffering with infertility before going for remediation process. In the on-going online courses for children and reproductive youths attention must be paid to safe guard them from radiations from communicating electronic devices.

**References**


