

PRACTICE 1

1. Title of the Practice

Scientific Research: Sowing the Seeds of Research in Young Minds

2. Objectives of the Practice

- To disseminate scientific knowledge for the benefit of fellow professionals and community.
- To prepare students to critically assess new and old technologies and practices throughout their careers.
- To help students develop, understand and apply their skills for scholarly investigation, pursuit of discovery, and transmission of knowledge, including principles in ethical research and clinical practice.

3. The Context

Dentistry is an ever evolving field of medicine. Dental education should be scientifically based, clinically relevant, medically informed, and socially responsible. To achieve this, encouragement and practice of ethical research is a must. However, the provision for short research projects is not made in the curriculum. Thus, the current practice of encouraging research for students as well as the faculty members, took shape.

Challenging issues faced while designing and implementing this practice were:

- Difficulty in creating a window for research between their curricular schedules.
- Financial constraints and lack of funding
- Lack of infrastructure and access to resources
- Motivation of the students to take up research

4. The Practice

A continual enhancement of research capacity remains the cornerstone of modern Dentistry. Therefore, the students and staff are encouraged to take up research projects. Going a step further, the institution has established a basic research laboratory, to be utilized by all the stake holders. These research outcomes are disseminated through presentations and publications, thereby imparting the knowledge to fellow professionals and general public.

This initiative thus encourages students to understand, learn and apply the principles of research in their day to day clinical practice and generates interest to develop cutting edge innovations which can benefit all. Participation in research helps enhance their attributes of scientific thinking, team working, leadership, communication and management skills which in turn will nurture a lifelong learning attitude.

Constraints/limitations faced during the practice were:

- Lack of scientific training in research methodology for undergraduates
- Difficulty in selecting the research topics within the limits of the set curriculum
- Time constraints
- Lack of financial support and availability of technology

5. Evidence of Success

- Publications in Journals and presentations at various forums
- Grants for undertaking research
- MOU with other universities to facilitate research.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Motivating students for research was a challenging issue faced.
- At present, though basic research facilities have been extended to the researchers, a technological up-gradation is needed to conduct advanced research.
- Researchers face perpetual struggle to secure and sustain funding.

PRACTICE 2

1. Title of the Practice

Undergraduate and Post graduate Career Oriented Guidance and Counselling Program

2. Objectives of the Practice

- To help students establish a proper identity for themselves
- To enable them to fully engage in career planning.

- To help students to understand and develop the skills that are required to be successful in their future pathway.
- To help the students in vocational development

3. **The Context**

For some students, where Dentistry was not the first choice, orienting and guiding them regarding the scope and career perspectives in Dentistry is a challenging issue which had to be dealt with.

The first year undergraduate and post graduate students carry with them apprehensions about dealing with new responsibilities of studying and developing clinical skills in treating patients.

These aspects had to be addressed and emphasized prior to designing and implementing the practice so as to build up their confidence.

The students, after clearing all their exams and upon entering the rotatory internship period, find themselves on cross roads, as to what and how they need to pursue on the career front.

4. **The Practice**

Undergraduate and Post graduate Career Oriented Guidance and Counselling Program is carried out in the institution for the overall development of the students on the professional and personal fronts.

It is carried out in two phases:

- Orientation program for undergraduate and post graduate students at the time of their joining the institution by the staff of the institution.
- In- house career guidance program for the fresh interns at the beginning of their rotatory internship period.

The staff and invited guest speakers are involved in conducting the programs.

The distinctness of this practice is to guide students establish a proper identity for themselves during their period of confusion by motivating them to develop a readiness for choices and changes, thereby leading to their overall development in their professional and personal life.

The program also introduces them to various career options within Dentistry and other allied fields, both in India and abroad.

One of the constraints while implementing this program was that, due to limited manpower and intellectual expertise to guide the students in pursuing courses beyond the scope of the institution, guidance in career could be given only in limited allied fields of Dentistry.

Also, there was a lack of tailor made career guidance based on individual student strength and weakness.

5. Evidence of Success

Having had a better understanding of the field, the students developed an interest and oriented themselves in pursuing the course and becoming competent dental surgeons.

Having instilled confidence in the students, the program has enabled the students to pursue their careers in both private and corporate sectors and further arm themselves through post-graduation courses in the specialty of their choice.

These results indicate that the practice has indeed helped the students orient themselves to the course, stay focused during their entire learning period, choose careers of their choice and be competent enough to be self-employed.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Difficulty in keeping a continuous track of the placements and change in career options opted by the passed out students.

Non Dental career options in India and abroad could not be extended to the students due to lack of availability of expert speakers from other fields.

Additional manpower to enable a customized career guidance based on each student's strength and weakness.