

Integrating Gerodontology: A Call to Enhance Dental Education for Comprehensive Elderly Care

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Introduction

- WHO has submitted “Call for Public Health Action” for oral health of older people.
- These problems can be overcome in dental profession by inclusion of education, clinical programmes, research agendas relating to “Gerodontology” in dental curriculum.
- Though there is increasing demand for geriatric oral health care but no formal training has been introduced in the dental curriculum.

Aim & Objectives

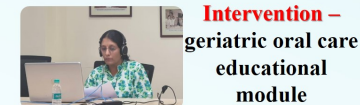
- To assess and compare the knowledge, attitude and practices of comprehensive geriatric oral health care among dental undergraduates before & after the online teaching activity.

Methodology

Study design	Cross sectional study
Study setting	Dental colleges of India
Study population	Undergraduate dental students
Sample size and sampling technique	484, Simple Random Sampling
Armamentarium	Validated 15 itemed questionnaire and Geriatric oral care educational module
Data Analysis	Descriptive, X ² test and paired t test

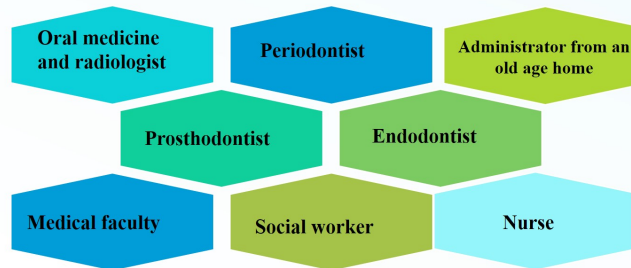


Pre test (Knowledge and Attitude score)



Post test (Knowledge and Attitude score)

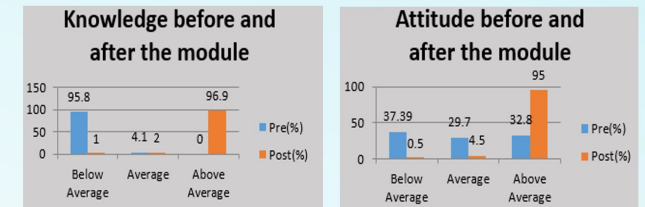
IP Team



Acknowledgement

My mentors, All faculty members, Seniors & Friends & MAHE family.

Results



- Highly significant improvement in knowledge and attitude before and after the module ($p < 0.005$).
- Majority of the undergraduate students had below average knowledge and attitude before the module with 3rd year students having least. ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion

- Integrating gerodontology into dental education is crucial for improving care for the elderly, given their unique dental needs and challenges
- Inclusion of gerodontology curriculum as a part of service based for dental undergraduates is in the need of hour in India

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