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Future of Dentist profession In Saudi Arabia

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Abstract

Introduction: Dentistry fields is a well-known field and it is one of the most demanding field now a days. The aim of the study is to assess the perception of the students regarding dentistry field.

Methods: In this cross sectional study, purposely constructed questionnaire was used to gather the data. Data was entered in SPSS ver.20 software for analyses. Descriptive and inferential statistics were obtained. T test was used to measure the significance differences. Consent was obtained from the respondents. Research was approved from the research ethical committee of the college. The study was conducted in between January to july-2020. Data was gathered from the trained data collectors. Convenience sampling method was used total sample was 650 students.

Results: Out of total 650 respondents 75% were male while 25% were females. 24% of the respondents father, 10% mothers and 29% have other family members in a dentist profession.

Conclusion: dental colleges to enrich the awareness of the students about employment situation and avenues for higher education.

Recommendation: Guest speaker presentations (from the government sector, the private sector, and specialty program organizations) may be organized by dental colleges to enrich the awareness of the students about employment situation and avenues for higher education. This study emphasizes that every human demands respect and financial benefits to enjoy his work and motivation to learn, same as in dentistry field.

Key words: *Dental, profession, Saudi Arabia, awareness.*

Introduction

Young students around the world have for many years considered dentistry as their potential career option primarily for financial stability and work easiness. Nevertheless, few reports have appeared in the media in recent years for newly trained dentists in Saudi Arabia who are unable to find suitable jobs.[1]Such news stories became a debate subject for major television. Within social media. These stories emerge in light of a huge increase in Saudi Arabia 's number of dental schools reaching 27 colleges governmental and 8 private) in 2018 compared to 3 governmental dental schools in 1987. [2-4]. The number of graduating students from these dental schools (both males and females) exceeded 1,956 in 2018[5]. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has embarked on a historic mission described as "an ambitious but realistic blueprint" to transform the Kingdom's economy into an inclusive growth model by the year 2030. In this text, health care was defined as an important tool in creating a healthy community. [6].The document stresses the need for a healthcare market, "which promotes competition. Dental students perceive a multitude of potential career challenges; however, there is limited evidence about dental students' perception regarding the challenges they might face as they enter the profession.

Also, the abrupt increase of dental schools in Saudi Arabia and the influx of newly graduating dentists in the market are expected causes of some stress. [7]Therefore, there was a need to conduct a study involving students from both private and public dental colleges across Saudi Arabia at this time. The study aimed at assessing dental students' opinions about their future career challenges in the dental profession. In addition, some factors associated with the perception of career challenges were also investigated. As licensed healthcare workers, dentists occupy an important position in society, there have been several studies by dental educators and researchers concerning the motives for entering the dental profession. The motivating factors for selecting any career are complex, and dentistry is no exception. [8-9] Many issues may be considered when choosing a career, including one's own strengths and weaknesses, interests and desires and willingness and financial ability to complete a possibly lengthy period of training as well as the type of work involved in a particular career, work environment, financial rewards and availability and attractiveness of alternative careers. Moreover, the relative importance of these factors may differ between men and women [10].

Methods

For this cross sectional study, Purposely constructed questionnaire was used for this research; questionnaire was constructed by the panel of expert including dentist, educationist, and researchers. Internal consistency of the questionnaire was measured (0.78). Data was gathered from the first year student of the Jeddah University. Questionnaire composed of question regarding specialty selection, future of dentist. Data was entered in SPSS ver.20 software for analyses. Descriptive and inferential statistics were obtained. T test was used to measure the significance differences. Consent was obtained from the respondents. Research was approved from the research ethical committee of the college. The study was conducted in between January to july-2020.Data was gathered from the trained data collectors. Convenience sampling method was used total sample was 650 student.

Results

Out of total 650 respondents 75% were male while 25% were females. (Fig.01)

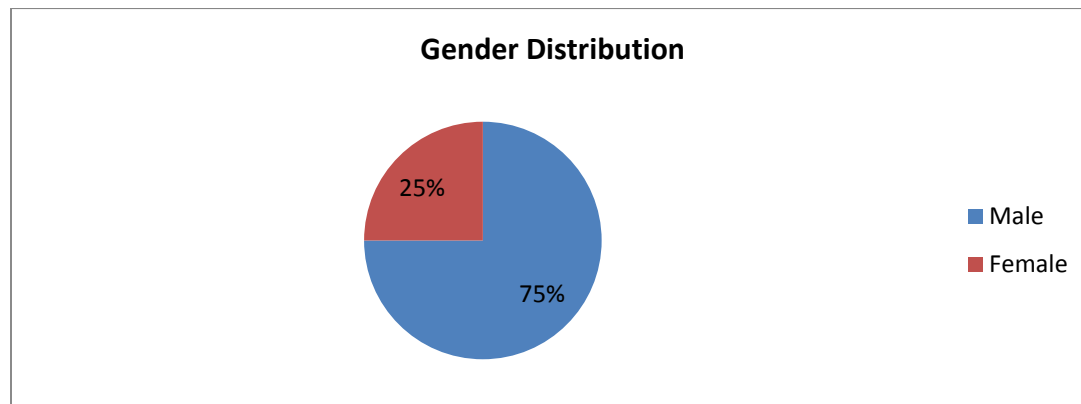


Fig.01 Gender Distribution

Table 1: Gender wise comparisons' of influencing factors for dentist

Factors	Female		Male		p-value
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	
Dentist get respect	2.8	1.5	4.5	2.5	P<0.05
Dentist get more money	1.4	3.6	3.5	1.2	P<0.05
Dentist get more popularity	2.8	8.9	3.6	3.5	P<0.05
Dentist get satisfaction	4.5	6.5	4.4	4.5	N.S
Dentist job is easy	4.2	4.5	3.9	7.8	N.S
Dentist study is easy	4.4	3.2	4.2	3.1	N.S
Dentist serve country	4.4	2.5	3.4	0.1	N.S
Dentist serve mankind	4.4	4.5	4.8	1.9	N.S
Higher studies opportunities in dentist	3.6	2.4	4.4	2.5	N.S
Higher carrier in Aboard	4.4	9.4	4.8	9.6	N.S

In this table ,author have asked about the influencing factors for dentist, In response of the questions regarding Dentist get respect, Dentist get more money Dentist get more popularity males and females have significant differences while in other items no significant difference was observed.

Table 2: Family members in a dentist profession.

	Yes	No
Father is dentist	24%	76%
Mother is dentist	10%	90%
Other family member is dentist	29%	71%

Table 2 depicted that 24% of the respondents father, 10% mothers and 29% have other family members in a dentist profession.

Discussion

Our findings suggested that dentist get respects and money is a most beneficial reason to select dental field. In Saudi Arabia, most dental colleges have five years of the undergraduate dental program (Bachelor of Dental Surgery, BDS). After successful completion of coursework in five years, students go through one year of internship program after which they can work as a licensed dentist. [11]The employment options for new graduates are either government or private jobs. For the government jobs, the dentists are either employed by the Ministry of Health, Armed Forces hospitals, or as a faculty member in one of the public dental colleges in the country. Some pursue their careers in private dental practice by working as an associate dentist and others open up their own dental clinics. Similarly, a large number of newly graduated dentists apply for higher education/specialty training within the country (Saudi Dental Board) or apply for an admission in advanced training abroad. In addition, few graduates are hired in private dental colleges in the country. Students perceive difficulties that they might face in finding an employment after graduation. [12-13].

This report describes the career motivations, attitudes toward the future of dentistry and levels of interest in various specialties among dental students. According to Karibe et al, that compared Japan and Sweden revealed that nearly 60% of Japanese dental students had at least one parent who was a dentist. [14-15]An Iranian study reported that dental students with at least one parent practicing dentistry scored significantly lower on the “characteristics of the profession” dimension than other students, and the authors attributed this result to a greater degree of familiarity with the difficulties of practicing dentistry among students with a parent in the dental profession. Several other studies have reported that having friends and relatives in the dental profession was an important factor in their subjects’ career choices. [16-17] Because of the low percentage (6.1%) of respondents in this study who had at least one parent in dentistry, the influence of having a dentist as a parent on the respondents’ career choices should be interpreted with caution. These findings are in line with our study. The Cronbach’s alpha reliability coefficients were 0.78 for the scales used to assess the motivating factors and the perceived future of dentistry, respectively. Gliem and Gliem in 2003 state that it is important to calculate and report Cronbach’s alpha for Likert-type scales to demonstrate the reliability of study’s measurements. [18-20] The Cronbach’s alpha value for motivating factors in this study was comparable to the value in a study conducted by Scarbecz and Ross , although fifteen items were used to measure the four motivating factors in that study. [20-25].

Conclusion

Dental academia should collaborate with the decision makers in healthcare systems to organize career fairs. This study highlights the need of dentists in the future. Dentists are the pillars of the society.

Recommendations

Guest speaker presentations (from the government sector, the private sector, and specialty program organizations) may be organized by dental colleges to enrich the awareness of the students about employment situation and avenues for higher education.

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