

Post BDS scope of practicing veterinary dentistry with the help of expert veterinary physicians –A thought process

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Citation of this Article: Tanvi Marathe, Dr Sandhya Tamgadge, Dr Bhagyashree Agre, “Post BDS scope of practicing veterinary dentistry with the help of expert veterinary physicians –A thought process”, IJDSIR- December - 2021, Vol. – 4, Issue - 6, P. No. 149 – 152.

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Type of Publication: Original Research Article

Conflicts of Interest: Nil

Abstract

Selecting a proper career path is a fundamental step towards a safe and secure future. Dentistry is one of the most fascinating and demanding field. Lot of students usually opt dentistry as a career option. This is leading to increase in unemployment among dental graduates. As a result, majority of the students are left behind with a big question mark when it comes to taking decisions for higher studies. Therefore, it becomes critical for youth to explore different opportunities after completing their basic graduation in dentistry. Pet animals play a very important role in the life of a human being. So naturally, their dental care also takes a very important place. When given a simultaneous thought about these two different concepts at the same time, it can emerge into a uniquely different career opportunity. The primary objective of this review article is to provoke a thought process of

exploring basic veterinary dentistry as an adjunct career option.

Keywords: Veterinary Dentistry, Career Option, BDS, MDS, Animals Job, Scope

Introduction

Despite improvements in healthcare delivery systems, healthcare professionals are still holding a great demand. It is not only the field of medicine that is showing advances, but dentistry in itself is also witnessing similar transformations (1). Dentistry is highly popular profession among the students. The number of dental graduates passing out every year is tremendous making the field increasingly saturated. In spite of having a large number of dental colleges in India, large number of students remain unemployed. The great deal of issues faced by dental graduates does not give an excellent impact over the profession (2). Setting up a clinic

immediately after completing graduation cannot be a good option as it requires tremendous clinical experience and a good amount of financial backup. Another traditional option that most of the students go for MDS, which is also a competitive option as the seats are limited in our country. However, pursuing post-graduation in foreign countries can be one of the options, but advanced study option in other countries too has its own pros and cons (3). This keeps the youth in a confused state when it comes to choosing career options for higher studies after graduation. Looking at the increasing number of dental graduates and focusing on the shrinking of job avenues, it has become a very difficult task for the aspirants to shape their career. As a result, students tend to go for options like dental blogging, dental you tubing, dental tourism, etc. after BDS. (2)

Another part in a series of thoughts goes in a way that if pets are so crucial to humans, their dental hygiene also must have been very important part of this group. Thus, a possibility on inventing such designations like, “Veterinary Dentists/ Veterinary dental technician” give rise to questions like -

Is there a scope for veterinary dentistry in India?

Can the upcoming youth think of job opportunities related to this field?

Can general dentists work in association with veterinary provide dental care to animals?

Can veterinary dentistry be merged with human dentistry?

Current Scenario of Dental Graduates in India

Even after painstaking efforts taken by the students, they are facing crisis related to further employments and education. As soon as students complete their BDS degree, there is a big question of “what next” in front of most students. They are left behind with a state of

hesitation regarding higher studies or further employment options. It can be attributed to factors such as lack of government jobs in India, the uneven distribution of dental colleges, and less number of post graduate seats. The job avenues available in India are not enough for the number of dental graduates passing out every year (4). Looking at the current situation of the aspirants in the field of dentistry, it’s important for the youth to think laterally and explore different opportunities in the same field to shape their careers (2), (5).

Statistics of BDS in India

According to statistics of BDS in India there are more than 300 dental colleges in India and approximately 30,000 dental graduates pass out every year (6)(7). Out of 332 dental colleges 292 belong to private sector and 40 are run by the government. According to National health profile (NHP) 2018 out of 2.7 lakh dentists, government employs only 2.7% (8). This is one of the reasons students remain unemployed. According to World Health Statistics 2019, the dentist population ratio is 1:10000. This shows that our country still shows increased demand for dentists. However unequal distribution of dentists in rural and urban areas plays an important role in increasing unemployment of the fellow dentists. Despite the increasing demand for dentists in our country according to the above data, saturation in the dental market can be noticed. It is because large number of dentists tends to practice in urban areas unlike in rural areas where not much dentists choose to practice. Lack of awareness of oral health in rural areas makes the private clinic less viable (5) (9) Analysing the about data, we can say that the upcoming students need to find solutions to survive in the market in order to have a successful future (10)

Survival in the Saturated Market

By considering the current scenario of students studying dentistry every year, it is evident that surviving in this saturated field is not an easy task for the upcoming youth. Joining into private sector for further education or in search of employment does not become possible for everyone as it should have a good economic backup. Increasing unemployment in our country also has a psychological impact over the mindset of the youth. (11). Many unemployed dentists are left with no option but to quit from their field and create lot of negative thinking for continuing dentistry. (9). The efforts, financial backup taken by the students go in vain. So, it is very important for the newly emerging graduates to diversify their thoughts when it comes to selecting different career opportunities. To survive in such a condition, students cannot depend only on traditional options like securing a government job. Thinking out of the box and exploring new options would surely prove beneficial for all these fellow dentists (10)

Importance of Animals in the Life of Humans

Animals are the integral part in human lives. In urban areas in the form of pets and in rural areas in the form of agricultural work, animals play a critical role in a life of humans. We love to take care of animals as we do take care of ourselves. Animals are becoming equally important to humans right from transportation, to all other agricultural work and in all other aspects. Animals become our companion our workers, a way of our resource and are helpful to us in many other ways (12). Simultaneously when we think of other career options in the field of dentistry, what if we, dentists who are concerned with oral health care in humans, think about career options related to dental care of animals too, under the supervision of or with the assistance of veterinary physician?

Veterinary Dentistry and Its Scope in India V/S Scope Abroad

Veterinary Dentistry is the field of dentistry applied to the care of animals. When we talk about veterinary dentistry in India, dental treatment of the animals is done by general veterinary doctors or sometimes general dentists. Whereas in foreign countries, dental treatment is given specially by veterinary dentists. That is, unlike India, foreign countries provide a specialized certificate course for veterinary dentistry. The love for pets in the coming generation is making this field even more demanding. (13) (14) (15).

Conclusion

Looking at the overall situation of the dental market of our country, and considering the saturation faced by the students, the country should think some career option for the youth to overcome this saturation. If certified courses for veterinary dentistry are made available in India, it will be one of the good and definitely a unique career options for the aspirants as subject for higher studies after BDS. This thought process will in turn help to reduce the saturation created in the dental market and help the youth pursue their careers differently.

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