

ABSTRACT

Background: It is desirable for the Dental Practitioners to maintain their competency and upgrade the skills and knowledge for the benefit of the public and profession. Continuing Dental Education is one of the important tool for professional upgradation. This research aims to find out the current status of Continuing Professional Development in the field of Dental Education in Gujarat, to identify the Continuing Dental Education needs and requirements of the Dental practitioners in Gujarat, to correlate the current status of the Continuing dental Education program with the needs of the practitioners with a view of identifying the gaps and to develop the APPROPRIATE Recommendations/GUIDELINES for conduction, regulation and accreditation of CPD programs.

Methodology

The research study comprised of the questions regarding the views, opinions and preferences of the practitioners like skill, knowledge and service regarding the CPD. The study was conducted in phases: Pilot Survey, Final Survey, Experts Views and Recommendations.

Results:

Total of 700 practitioners participated in the final survey. The results showed that the factors such as level of degree, gender, past professional development courses attended influences the attendance and preferences for CDEs. Various hindrances such as practice too busy, timings of the course, time needed to travel, loss of income, etc influenced the professional development activities. The experts were of the opinion that need assessment must be undertaken, CDE program should be made mandatory and nodal agencies such as National Professional Dental Associations and National Speciality Bodies should be assigned the responsibility

of conducting such programs and their certification should be considered for renewal of Dental Council registrations.

Conclusion

Research and analysis of the status of continuing dental education in state of Gujarat has provided the baseline data and provided overview on to the choices, preferences and hindrances in pursuing professional upgradation for dental practitioners. Results of our study have clearly demonstrated that the level of degree has definite influence on the choices for professional development. It is also observed that the timings for conduction of CDE programs has great impact on attendance.

The assessment of the needs and preferences of the practitioners including the preferred learning method, preferred timing of learning is very important in planning the curriculum for CD courses. Assurance of quality in these programs is of vital importance and regulating bodies such as Dental Council and professional associations such as Indian Dental association should play a pivotal role in improving continuing dental education programs in our country.