

Evaluation of Public Health Prevention Education in Dental Schools in India

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INTRODUCTION

This study evaluated continuing education training conducted at dental schools in India. Training focused on public health prevention in dentistry, including the role of dental public health in improving oral health status, public health policies in the USA to improve oral health, and approaches that can be implemented in India to improve oral health status.

INDIAN DENTAL SCHOOL TRAINING

➤ Participants were 56 students from two dental colleges in India.



RESULTS

An optional, anonymous 5-point Likert-type survey assessed training and 6 learning outcomes for participants.

Descriptive statistics indicated the training was successful overall. That is, after the completion of the training:

1. 100% of the participants indicated awareness of all learning objectives.
2. 82-91% indicated across 6 learning objectives were important.
3. 89% were satisfied with the training.
4. 93% indicated a satisfactory or very satisfactory understanding of public health dentistry.
5. 82% indicated their ability to actively engage in public health dentistry after the training.
6. 68% expressed a good interest in public health dentistry.
7. 77% planned to directly use knowledge gained in their life.

While only 26% of participants had previous experience working with or supporting public health dentistry, 91% planned to directly apply knowledge gained in their future career.

DISCUSSION

This evaluation demonstrated both the need for and interest of future dental practitioners to expand their knowledge oral health and preventive approaches to patients and populations. Implications of this project include the need to re-evaluate dental education curricula to prepare dental health professionals to improve public health prevention in dentistry.