Why should I prefer dentistry?

The counseling sessions are just over. Many parents and their children who aspire for a professional degree had asked this question. I am trying to answer them. Dentistry is a career that combines science and technology while providing the rare opportunity to help people enhance and maintain oral health. Tomorrow’s dentists will be on the cutting edge of advanced technology, making the practice of dentistry challenging and rewarding. Dentists receive personal satisfaction by providing an essential community health service, by educating future dentists and by doing valuable research.

While promoting oral health, dentists maintain social consciousness and work with community leaders and other health professionals. Dentists are often the first health care providers to recognize and identify a number of illnesses— including cancer and cardiovascular problems. Research suggests an increasing number of links between oral diseases and other health concerns. Dentists diagnose and treat conditions affecting the teeth, tongue, gums, lips and jaws. Exciting technologies, such as digital radiography and laser systems, along with enhanced new materials and techniques, can be used to correct dental problems.

Dentists are artists with keen visual memory, excellent judgment of proportions and shape. Dentists have high degree of manual dexterity in the delivery of patient services. Recently computer applications have started complementing scientific knowledge and technical skills.

Dentistry is an appealing career because it offers the flexibility to balance a professional life and personal goals. Dentistry affords the opportunity to be one’s own boss and own a dental practice. As independent entrepreneurs, dentists set and maintain their own regular hours.

The mission statement of a dental clinic gives a remarkable insight into the profession: “Honour the Lord by treating patients and fellow workers the same way we would like to be treated. We will continually strive for excellence in the care we render, and comfort in the way it is rendered. In this way, we will help patients to realize how good oral health can improve their quality of life”.

Consider these facts and ask the same question raised in the title.

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