

Editorial

Mission statement

The journal believes in upholding the health needs of the mankind as the most important factor while publishing a research communication. TPDI is dedicated to publish articles to improve the knowledge, competencies and attitudes based on professionalism of prosthodontists in general and of the members of the sponsoring organisations in particular.



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Provide teeth to the DCI

The Dental Council of India (DCI) - a statutory body - was constituted on 12th April 1949 under an Act of Parliament - the Dentists Act, 1948. Ever since that date, Dentistry in India is closely linked to the DCI for its evolution, development and maintenance of standards. The objectives of the DCI are stated to be:

1. to maintain uniform standards of dental education – both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
2. to prescribe the standard curricula for the training of dentists, dental hygienists, dental mechanics and the conditions for such training.
3. to prescribe the standards of examinations and other requirements to be satisfied to secure for qualifications recognition under the Act.

For the effective administration, the council has a President, Vice President, Executive committee and a General body of members. The members are derived from different universities, state governments, central government and elected representatives of dentists. The structure of the council appears to have a representative model based on democratic principles. In principle everything appears to be laudable. But in fact there are so many lacunae in maintaining the standards of dental profession. Many dental colleges do not have adequate number of patients for the students to get training. Number of patients is fictitious and they remain only in papers and registers. Assessment of graduates is never based on objectives and hence the dentists produced do not have necessary skills and knowledge to treat our patients. Entrance system to different courses lacks credence and frequently money power dictates eligibility to get admission to professional courses. People of this country slowly lose faith in the competency of practicing dentists. The Government does not seem to have a control over the maintenance of the objectives of the DCI. The central government should have a direct control over the executive committee of the DCI. Instead of nominating a few dentists to the general body, the Government should nominate its representatives direct to the executive committee so that the awareness level of the policy makers can be enhanced. The day to day administration of the DCI is through the executive committee and hence this suggestion is put forth. Today the palpable feeling is that the council has no teeth in maintaining the standards of our profession. Some positive changes can happen only if the administration of the council become a little more sensitive and the central government exercises some more control in the administration. In the interest of the profession it is high time, the policy makers come out of its slumber and act with vigour. Or else nobody can prevent the disastrous future related to the health of the people.

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