India is a great nation and it has many unique features: huge population that dilutes many of our achievements, we cannot give clean drinking water to all but at the same time we have found out that there is enough water in the moon, we do not have any statistics on the dental health status of the country but we proudly own the world's largest number of dental colleges and very rarely we find time to read professional journals but we produce the largest number of dental journals which puts our country in the first position in many counts. While appreciating our achievements, we are in the forefront in lamenting also- stating that we should not allow 'mushrooming of colleges' and decreasing standards of education and research. We are adept in finding fault but never explore the possibility of finding a solution. Our professional associations have only a superficial vision and hence they cannot lead the profession to suit the needs of our country. It is a truth that our graduate students do not get adequate clinical exposure because college managements are not in a position to bring in many patients to meet the requirements of the 200 clinical students of a college which admits 100 students an year. Teachers are complacent and they do not ensure (due to many reasons) the passing standards of the candidates. Everything is based on fiction: the marks, the attendance and the clinical proficiency. Our profession will soon be harbouring the maximum number of incompetent people. If an exit exam is not implemented soon, the basic skills like dental extraction, denture fabrication, fillings and scaling will become alien to the profession. The so-called denturism might overtake clinical dentistry. Dental research in our country has become a copy business. Postgraduate students do not take it seriously. Guides find it difficult to get content with originality for the PG thesis. We have to become a little serious in setting the standards of our graduates and postgraduates. It is high time we established a dental university which can set standards, which can lead research, which can bring in an awareness that plagiarism is a crime that people with self esteem cannot do, which can run model postgraduate courses and which can conduct educational courses specific to each dental subject. Our professional associations have huge reserve money which at present is lying idle. We hope they will take the leadership in starting at least a deemed university, or atleast demand for it.

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