

# Bird's Eye on LMC Dental Graduates Academic Contributory Role to Enhance Undergraduate Dental Education and Vision for Pakistan: A Commentary

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## ABSTRACT

**Dental education, like Medical education in our country, should now be shifted towards student centered, be Evidence cum Competence based & incorporate room for Faculty Development to meet International trends. This special GJC dentistry commentary is dedicated to the academic contributions of our entire respected LMC dentistry faculty from a lecturer to the level of professor, who taught & trained us to play vital academic role, from the year 1963 till 2013. This commentary is contribution to share our academic role for the promotion of our dynamic skill oriented Oral Health Profession in Pakistan.**

**KEYWORDS:** Oral health, Dental education, Academic contribution.

## INTRODUCTION

The fifty years of our alma mater Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences, Jamshoro has seen many ups & downs. It is hoped that, this commentary will serve as a Pathfinder document for other Dental & Medical Educationists to explore, document & promote other areas of interest related to Oral Health Sciences Profession in Pakistan. In order to fill the vast gaps present in national Dental Education, this commentary is being shared on the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebration Year 2013 of our Dental Section, affiliated with Liaquat Medical College-Jamshoro. This department has now been upgraded into Institute of Dentistry, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences and it has the honor to be Pakistan's 1<sup>st</sup> Public Sector Medical University & respective Dental Institute. It was established via an ordinance in 2001 to promote Medical & Dental Education, Training and Research<sup>1,2</sup>. This article would fulfill the objectives of: Contribution to Dental Education, provide an update on Present status of Dental Institutes of two Provinces of our country, highlight the academic contributions of LMC dental Graduates & its respective Heads at an Undergraduate level from 1963 till 2013 & also suggest recommendations, for all concerned. A similar academic contribution has already been documented by our colleagues.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Present scenario and what to do?***

Currently, there are 15 Dental Colleges in Sindh & only one in Balochistan Province. All these are ap-

proved, but a few are at initial recognition levels by the regulatory body of Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PMDC). In Sindh Province, from all these, 11 are heavily concentrated in Karachi, whereas, one dental college each is located in cities of: Jamshoro, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas & Larkana. Interestingly among these, 10 belong to the specialty of oral surgery reflecting their possible academic association to the pioneer LMC academic leadership. The present Pakistan dental academic scenario 2013/14 shows, that, there is still a major shortage of highly educated & technically skilled faculty at most of the dental Institutes, at both Public & Private sector<sup>3</sup>.

Action, in terms of Positive Academic Support at all levels needs to be taken by all leading stake holders, in order to upgrade our current dental education & Profession, to meet our society & International standard<sup>1,3</sup>. This is only possible by providing a positive & supportive learning environment for the new dental graduates to foster "Critical thinking & their development as Academic Leaders, to train them to think & act out of the box<sup>4</sup>". Education, Research and Oral Health Care targeted for patient's forms the most vital platform for any Dental Institute and cater to the society needs & this must be addressed nationally<sup>4</sup>. The Private Dental sector seems to have taken the lead in Pakistan by establishing numerous dental institutes, focusing more on Quantity, neglecting Quality & associated Hospital based dental Clinical training and that, they need to play their active roles to promote & modify the present dental education scenario<sup>1,3,4</sup>

**FACT BOX:**

**LIAQUATAN'S PIONEER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS TO ESTABLISH DENTAL INSTITUTES IN PAKISTAN**

Dental Institutes Status	LMC Dentistry Laureates
Worked as HoD Dental Section, LMC-Jamshoro, as the 1 <sup>st</sup> & oldest Dental Section in Sindh Province from 1963 till 1964 Worked as HoD, same place from 1975 till 1996 Became the 1 <sup>st</sup> Principal of Fatima Jinnah Dental College in 1997 & served till 20012.	Prof. Mohammad Essa Arain
Joined as HoD Dental Section LMC from 1964 till 1965 Joined as HoD Dental Section, LMC from 1965 till 1972. Afterward proceeded to England & taught at Royal Dental Hospital & Guy's Hospital-London	Dr. Abbass Malik Prof. Saeed A Malik
Served as Principal Dental Section LMC from 1996 till 2001 Appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> Dean of Dentistry in Pakistan, after the up gradation of LMC into Pakistan's 1st Public Sector Medical University - 2001. Established Dental Section, Sir Syed Medical College for Girls as its HoD in 2010.	Prof. Raza M Shaikh
Established Isra Dental College- Isra University Hyderabad as its 1st Principal in 2009 & later on became its 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dean in 2013 after the sad demise of Prof. Rafique Memon.	Prof. Abdul Qadir Khero
Served as 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dean from 2004 till 2010 at Institute of Dentistry, Liaquat University of Medical Health Sciences- Jamshoro Established the College of Dentistry, Jinnah Medical & Dental College as its 1st Principal in 2000. Appointed as 1 <sup>st</sup> Dean of Dental College - Isra University Hyderabad, till his last days.	Prof. Rafique Memon (late)
Established as HoD, Dental Section Hamdard University Medical & Dental College in 1990.	Dr. John Issac
Established as HoD Dental Section of Karachi Medical & Dental College in 1993, as the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Public Sector Dental Institute in Sindh.	Dr. Yasmeen Saleem
Worked as HoD Dental Section from 1991 till 1997, at Bolan Medical & Dental College, Quetta. Currently working as HoD Dental Section from 2005 till date at Bolan Medical & Dental College, Quetta.	Prof. Abdul Aziz Khan Prof. Zia ul Haq
Established & worked as HoD Dentistry at Aga Khan University Hospital from 1987 till 2003.	Dr. Ninnete Bandy
Worked as HoD Dentistry, from 2003 with irregular intervals till 2012 at Federal Govt. PG Medical Institute - Islamabad	Dr. Pakeeza Haider
Established Liaquat College of Medicine & Dentistry-Karachi as its Principal & HoD Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery in 2000 and is still serving till date.	Prof. Naveed Rash-eed
This dynamic committee was formed by the Governor of Sindh, Dr. Ishrat- ul-Ebad to establish the Institute of Oral Health Sciences, named after him in 2005 & consisted of: Prof. Masood Hameed Khan (VC DUHS & Committee Chairman), Prof. Naushad Shaikh (then Sect. Health & Current VC LUMHS), Dr. Shams Soomro, Dr. Inayatullah Padhiar, Dr. MM Shakir, Dr. Mudasar, Dr Naveed Rash-eed & Dr. Shahjahan Katpar. Later onwards : Dr. MM Shakir & Dr. Shahjahan Katpar were both appointed respectively as Associate Dean Administration & Associate Dean Postgraduate Programs Dentistry & MDS Program Director @ Dr. Ishrat ul Ibad Institute of Oral Health Sciences, Dow University of Health Sciences. Dr. MM Shakir is the current Dean of Dentistry & Principal Dow Dental College DUHS.	6/SIX Members Dynamic LUMHS Team :
Served as HoD Dentistry at JPMC from 1987 till 2009.	Dr. Mushtaq Memon
Established Dental Section, Bahria University Medical & Dental College, as VP & HoD OMFS with his team in 2010.	Prof. Shahjahan Katpar
Worked as HoD Dental Dept. @ Liaquat National Hospital from 1986 till 2002. ( As conveyed by himself) Working as Principal from 2012 at BB Asefa Dental College, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University- Larkana.	Dr. Hakim Arain
Professor Sajjad Akhund is appointed as its 1 <sup>st</sup> Principal from 2010, till date. Dr. Mustafa Butt, Chairman-Managing Trustee established with his Council : Bhattai Dental & Medical College-Mirpurkhas in 2011.	Prof. Sajjad Akhund

Established Mohammad Bin Qasim Dental College Karachi in 2010 & Dr. Asad Javed appointed as its 1 <sup>st</sup> Principal	Prof. Mohammad Amin
Working as HoD Dental Dept. @ Liaquat National Hospital & Medical College- Karachi from 2006 till date.	Prof. Tauqeer ul Islam
<b>NOTE:</b> Except, Professors: M Essa Arain, Saeed Malik, Raza Shaikh and Dr. Abbass Malik all others mentioned above are Dental Graduates of LMC-Jamshoro, whereas remaining are graduates of de'montmorency college of Dentistry-Lahore	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The 7- rainbow colored recommendations to be addressed nationally, at undergraduate level by: Government of Pakistan, PMDC/HEC, Dental/Medical Institute stake holders, respective Educationists, with the support of our Medical Fraternity to promote Dental Education/ Profession are as under:

- **Maintain Data:** In terms of Dental Faculty profile, graduate pass outs, Post graduation Program details, dental graduate's migration etc. This data must be documented through internet to obtain all associated benefits similar to international trends<sup>3,4</sup>.
- **Incorporate & emphasize Social Determinants/ Responsibilities** As for Medical Profession, this should also be addressed & prioritized in Dental Education with revised curriculum related to our own needs<sup>5,6</sup>.
- **Upgrade the existing undergraduate BDS Program** to 5 or 6 years, with greater emphasis on teaching the subjects of General Medicine & General Surgery to meet International trends. This will greatly support Oral & Maxillofacial Surgical Specialty aspiring PG trainees to get international benefits<sup>3</sup>.
- **Establish Dental/Medical Education Department** to cater to our own respective Professional needs, similar to Medical Profession. It should be made mandatory by PMDC/HEC for all Public Sector Medical University based Dental Institutes to take a lead from year 2016. This will enable them to emerge as National academic leaders. Finally, be made mandatory for all Private Sector Dental Colleges from 2017<sup>3,4,7,8</sup>.
- **Shift Dental Education:** Similar to the Medical education, be shifted towards student centered, incorporate adult learning principles, be Evidence cum Competence based, create an active learning environment & room for Faculty Development to get international status<sup>3,4,7,8</sup>.
- **Introduce 4 new Subjects from 2016** Behavioral Sciences, Research Methodology-Biostatistics, Geriatric Dentistry & Forensic Odontology at an Undergraduate level, especially at all Public Sector Medical University based Dental Institutes to address our community needs, attain International

standards & emerge as Academic leaders<sup>2,3,10,11</sup>

- **Establish Oral Cancer Oncology & Rehabilitation Centre** by each Public Sector Medical University in each Province of Pakistan from 2015. This will permit to combat the Oral Malignancy/ Squamous Cell Carcinoma associated casualties in Pakistan, having one of the highest incidences in world<sup>12</sup>.

## CONCLUSION

The international dynamic dental & medical Educationists, belonging to the Y-Generation has awareness of (IW) Intellectual Wellness. Similarly, IW should also be promoted by dental faculty, to maintain a balance between their careers & personal lives in our country.<sup>9,11</sup> In this interesting new journey of Faculty development, let's hope that Professionalism, Moral & Ethics as non-academic attributes of our dental curriculum are not forgotten in their true spirit<sup>8</sup>. We hope that, all the Dental & Medical Educationists and related Stake holders in this sarvy IT era would develop: a Positive Attitude, broadens their vision, & adapts an Open heart cum door policy to support the dynamic critically thinking academic Change Agents. This will lead to excellence & growth of our skill dominated Oral Health Profession in Pakistan and that, all this can only be achieved with the support & cooperation of Medical Fraternity & all others concerned in country.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

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