

Training Programs for Teacher-Leaders in Dental Education

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ABSTRACT

An increase in awareness on dental hygiene among people through the years consequently provoked a significant decrease in the occurrence of dental caries, and thus, a decrease in the number of dental restorations. This improvement of oral health affected the comparative dental analysis using dental treatments for human identification; hence, existing dental features or anomalies could act as unique identifying features. This study evaluated the awareness of dentists on charting dental anomalies by a dental charting task and addressed the importance of maintaining dental records for forensic and medico-legal purposes. An online survey-based study was conducted on 101 dentists practicing in the South Indian states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu through Google Forms (© 2019 Google Inc., v 0.8). Results showed that clearly visible anomalies such as midline diastema, crowding, and transposition were mentioned by only 11.8 %, 22.7 % and 5.9 % of the respondents respectively. 17.8 % misnamed the accessory cusp on a premolar as a Talon's cusp. The awareness of Forensic odontology among dentists was exceptional but the dental charting needs improvement. A "Scale of Forensic Significance of Dental Features" was created to interpret the accuracy in recording anomalies which comprised of three parameters namely: Incorrect answer(0 %), Partially Correct answer(50%) and Accurate answer(100%). They classify different levels of forensic significance of dental findings in human identification. Only a few respondents submitted an Accurate or a Partially Correct answer and, as a result, an Atlas of Dental Anomalies (www.theatlasofdentalanomalies.com) was created to rectify this poor pattern of dental charting.

Biography

Sang Park is the Associate Dean for Dental Education and Program Director of the MMSc in Dental Education at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. In addition to launching the MMSc in Dental Education program in 2017, she developed the patient-centered case completion curriculum for the predoctoral program in 2009 and pioneered the use of the flipped classroom in dental education at Harvard in 2013

Recent Publications

1. Kennedy E, Park SE. Designing Predoctoral Dental Education Pedagogy Utilization. *West East Journal of Social Sciences* 2018; 7(3): 1-9.
2. Kim S, Emge J, Swann B, Balestrero L, Donoff RB, Park SE. A pilot oral health continuing education program in in-hospital medicine. *J Dent Maxillofacial Res* 2019; 2(1):1-5.
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4. Kennedy EN, Krupat E, Park SE. Assessing dental faculty wellness and burnout in northeast US dental schools. *J Mass Dent Soc* 2020; 68(4): 12-17.

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