



Research Ethics

Ethics in our practice is of immense significance today. Ethical values should be inculcated in every dental student. As a professional we should

- Be aware of the responsibilities that we accept when entering the dental profession.
- Meet the standards of competence, care and conduct while rendering service.
- Above all the care of patients should be our first concern.

The aim should be to develop a consensus document which defines a basic core curriculum in dental ethics and law outlining the concepts, arguments, skills and attitudes that undergraduates and post graduate dental students should understand and know how to apply in practice by the time they qualify. The curriculum proposed should be balanced, sustained, and academically rigorous. Clinically relevant presentation and assessment of both ethics and law should be applied to dentistry. Teaching must reinforce the overall aims of dental education: the creation of good dentist who will enhance and promote the general and oral health and the welfare of people they serve in ways which fairly and justly respect their dignity, autonomy and rights. These goals will be achieved through:

- Ensuring that students understand the ethical principles and values which underpin all good clinical practice.
- Enabling students to think critically about ethical issues in healthcare, to reflect upon their own attitudes and beliefs, to understand and appreciate alternative and competing approaches and to argue and counter argue in informed discussion and debate.
- Insuring that students know the main professional obligations of dentists.

- Giving students a knowledge and understanding of the legal process and the broad legal obligations of dental practitioners sufficient to enable them to practice dentistry effectively and with minimal risks.
- Enabling students to appreciate that ethical and legal reasoning and critical reflection are natural and integral components in their clinical decision making and practice.
- Enabling students to understand that almost every decision they make in ordinary clinical practice has an ethical and legal contents as well as the more extraordinary situations in dentistry

Research ethics needs to be included especially in the post graduate curriculum. A Prosthodontist needs to be aware of the ethical protocols that are mandatory to follow while carrying out research work. The horizons of restorative dentistry are getting wider day by day. Techniques and methodologies are also changing at an unbelievable pace. Research in oral healthcare is for the benefit of mankind. Let us adhere to the principles and practice that ensures benefit and keeps up the dignity of the profession.

I believe not only that it will help to create good oral healthcare worker, but it will help us to enjoy a more fulfilling practice in world of diverse values and beliefs.

Dr.(Mrs) S. J. Nagda,

Editor,

The Journal of Indian Prosthodontic Society

Prof. and Head,

Dept. of Prosthodontics,

Nair Hospital Dental Centre,

Mumbai - 400 008, India