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Research Article

THE ROLE OF CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION IN DENTISTRY

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ABSTRACT

Continuing Dental Education includes informative activities designed and carried out to review existing concepts and techniques so as to convey information beyond basic dental education. This learning activity helps in maintaining and developing the knowledge and skills throughout the professional life; thus by enhancing the quality of treatment provided to the patients and career opportunities of the professionals.

Key Words:

Childbirth, Women, Pregnancy,
C-section, Natural birth

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INTRODUCTION

‘The only thing constant in life is change’ Heraclitus¹

This statement holds good in case of dentistry also. A lot of advancements happen in dentistry and the dentist need to keep themselves updated with these advancements. There is a constant need of educational activities so that the dentists can update their knowledge with all kinds of advancements. Continuing Dental Education (CDE) usually provides a means of updating a dentist regarding the various emerging technology /techniques /materials or enrich their existing knowledge.

Continuing education programmes will enrich /upgrade dentists existing knowledge and ensure that the patient’s of such dentist’s are offered the latest diagnostic, preventive and treatment methods. The patient will receive best treatment available by visiting dental practitioners who update themselves through continuing dental education program. This also increases the quality of care provided by a dentist to the patients.

Continuing Dental Education also provides as a means of Andragogy. Knowles described Andragogy as educational theory that focuses on teaching students as adult learners. Dental students are often evaluated on a high standard of personal responsibility and motivation during the teaching period. Further development of skills is important to prepare students for lifelong independent learning and leadership which a CDE can provide, since it leads to an adult learning model which may prove valuable in developing students skills and also develop independence, self guidance and responsibility.²

Continuing Dental Education(CDE) includes information and learning activities designed to review the concepts and techniques and to update the knowledge and skills on advances in scientific, clinical and non-clinical practice related aspects. The main objective is to improve the ability of the individual to provide the highest quality of treatment and service to the public and profession. All CDE should strengthen the habits of critical inquiry and balanced judgement that denote the truly professional and scientific person and should make it possible for new knowledge to be incorporated into Practice of Dentistry as it becomes available.

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An outdated accumulated knowledge does no good to anyone since the world is constantly evolving and so are the concepts and techniques in Dentistry. CDE programs provide a platform to enrich the knowledge of the professionals throughout their career.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Continuing Professional Development includes various programs like Continuing Medical Education (CME), Continuing Dental Education (CDE), Continuing Nursing Education, Continuing Pharmacy Education and Continuing education.^{3,4}

It involves various learning activities by which healthcare professionals are benefitted, ensuring safety and effectiveness in their practice. Apart from educational activities it also enhances the management skill, team building, professionalism, interpersonal communication technology, teaching and accountability. CPD ensures improved patient outcomes and satisfaction.^{5,6}

Need for CPD

Society's increased expectations of medical/Dental profession, public health care systems concerns, new technology and techniques and the working environment where professionals are often challenged to develop multidisciplinary works, makes CPD necessary in order to deliver quality clinical performance. CPD helps in keeping pace with the current standards of others in the same field and ensures to maintain quality professional services to the community. It helps the professional to be more effective in work place and assists to advance in their career and mentor others.

Continuing Dental Education

The drafting guidelines of the DCI suggest that the State Dental Council along with the IDA and other institutions, conduct programs related to asepsis, infection control, jurisprudence hepatitis, CPR and life threatening emergencies by engaging medical faculty, these programs should be free of cost to the participants. However, the respective state dental council limit their duty only to register and renew dentists. As suggested by DCI, it should come forward to conduct such programs throughout the respective states, by coordinating with state and district branches of professional bodies, teaching institutions, government organisations and corporate hospitals. Further, the state dental councils could even publish and circulate newsletters or compact discs on the latest events in dentistry to the dental practitioners especially those practicing in rural areas.⁴

IDA defines continuing dental education (CDE) as programmes designed to offer ongoing dental education which is intrinsic to deliver high quality dental and oral health care services. The IDA conducts CDE programme with an objective to update the clinical knowledge of dental graduates and Practitioners and to exercise the degree of care and improve treatment methods that will be beneficial to the citizens of India.⁷

According to IDA a CDE should⁷

- Review existing dental concepts.
- Acquire first hand research knowledge.
- Focus on clinical and non clinical dentistry knowledge.

- Gather practical knowledge on how to use latest tools and equipment.
- Understand business practices adhering to state licensure requirement.
- Learn how to expand your professional knowledge.
- Earn credit points, acquire certifications.

According to FDI, CDE is a professional obligation .It is the responsibility of the practising dentist to be continuous learner by participating in appropriate learning experience. The require of career long CDE provides awareness to the public that the dental profession is dedicated to the maintenance of high evidence based education and training standards.⁸

Essential criteria according to FDI with respect to CDE

- Applies to general dentists and specialists.
- Should include not only refinement of existing knowledge and skills but the consideration and application of new developments within scope of dentistry.
- Assists the dentists to recognize not only areas of interest but also limitations and need to refer patients for advice and/or treatment.
- is not concerned with specialised training or the immediate post graduate training period such as advanced education in general dentistry.⁸

According to FDI, CDE programs should ensure availability of a structured educational system for all dentists, has the responsibility to define the nature and to determine the amount of CDE that is reasonable and attainable by dentist, assist the appropriate regulatory agencies in determining voluntary mandatory requirements of CDE, recommend a system that is capable of evaluation for course quality, content and attendance by a dentist on regular basis.⁸

The Dental Council of India with approval of the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi have issued guidelines on section 2(a) to 2(i) of Continuation Dental Education Regulation 2007. The said regulation provides for renewal of Registration for a period of 5 years if, one acquires 100 CDE points, out of which 6 credit points for Ethics and Jurisprudence, 6 points for sterilization ,Infection control and waste management and 6 points for CPR and Basic life support system .20 CDE points per year is mandatory for renewal of registration. Activities on Continuing Dental Education are undertaken by the Dental Council of India to maintain, improve and broaden the knowledge and skills of Dental Surgeons to keep their professional expertise up to date and in line with current developments and thereby enhance the quality of care provided to the patients. There is an exponential growth of knowledge and technology in every branch of Dentistry. The Dental Surgeons need to be sensitive on the importance of upgrading themselves. It is the duty of every Dental Surgeon to render better and good service to every patient. Hence, it is necessary for the Dental Surgeons to develop the attitude of life long learning. The Registration and Renewal of Registration are mandatory to continue in the profession.⁴

Advantages of CDE

Involving in CDE brings out advantages to the profession, professional and patients.

Advantages to the profession

- High quality work
- Enhanced Inter professional Work

Advantages to the Professional

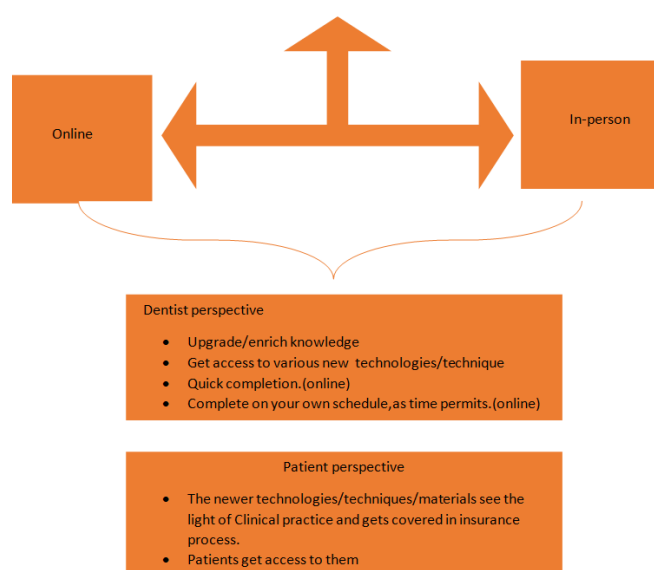
- Enhances Confidence
- Enhances satisfaction with work
- An accessible media of life long learning
- Improvement in treatment quality and service thereby helping professionals achieve their valued goals.
- Enhances career opportunities

Advantages to the Patient

Patients receive high quality, recent advanced, safe and Evidence-based service.

Platform of delivery and benefits of CDE

Continuing Dental Education



In India, each State Dental Council have formulated their own guidelines to conduct the Continuing Dental Education programs. Below are a brief of guidelines as set by the Karnataka State Dental Council to conduct the Continuing Dental Education programs in the State.

Karnataka State Dental Council guidelines for conducting CDE

The Dental Council of India with approval of the Government of India, Ministry of health and family Welfare, New Delhi have issued guidelines on section 2(a) to 2(I) of Continuation Dental Education Regulation,2007. The said regulations provide for renewal of Registration for a period of 5 years if, one acquires 100 CDE points, out of which 6 credit points for ethics and jurisprudence, 6points for sterilization, Infection Control and Waste Management and 6 points for CPR and basic life support system.20 CDE points per year is mandatory for renewal of registration. Activities on Continuing Dental Education are undertaken by Dental Council of India to maintain, improve and broaden the knowledge and skills of Dental Surgeons to keep their professional expertise up to date and inline with current developments and thereby enhance the

quality of care provided to the patients. There is an exponential growth of knowledge and technology in every branch of Dentistry. The Dental Surgeons need to be sensitive on the importance of upgrading themselves. It is duty of every Dental surgeon to render better and good service to every patient. Hence, it is important for Dental Surgeons to develop an attitude for life long learning. The Registration and Renewal of Registration are mandatory to continue in profession. Thus, it is decided to formulate guidelines for conducting CDE programs and award of CDE points.⁹

1. All Registered Dental Surgeons would need to accomplish 100 points over a period of 5 years i.e. 20 points per year.
2. Over a period of 5 years, every one should acquire 6 credit points for ethics and jurisprudence, 6 points for sterilization, Infection Control and Waste Management and 6 points for CPR and Basic life support system.
3. The CDE implementation would be valid for a period of 5 years for each dentist (up to the age of 65 years) engaged in practice and teaching, will be audited during the renewal of registration every year by State Dental Council.
4. CDE Provider should obtain permission from State Dental Council before printing the brochure for allowing the credit points and to enable the Council to put up the same in Councils website for the information of all the concerned.
5. Allotment of credit points will be solely at the discretion of Karnataka State Dental Council.
6. All procedures on patients should be in a Hospital, Institution or Clinical set-up only.
7. The CDE provider would be:
 - All theyou/DCI recognised Dental Colleges and Armed Forces. They shall approach Karnataka State Dental Council directly for award of credit points.
 - All the recognised Medical Colleges having Dental Faculty and other institutions involved in teaching Dental Subjects, IDA and it's Branches functioning in the state can approach directly the KSDC. Other Academic Bodies and Organisations shall approach the Karnataka State Dental Council for award of credit points provided they obtained the approval

Recognition from Dental Council of India.

It is mandatory to get the deal of KSDC with credit points on the certificates to be issued by the CDE providers before concluding the program.

8. The award of credit points would be as follows:\
 - Full day lectures or Conferences - 6 CDE points.
 - Half day Lectures or Conferences- 3 CDE points.
 - Evening Product introduction / lecture business meeting-2 CDE points.
 - 45 minutes lecture with 15 minute question and answers -1 CDE points.
 - For hands on course Depending upon the duration and Type of procedure, credit points will be allotted by State Dental Council.
9. Implementation would be initially on a voluntary basis on a self assessment Pro-forma submitted at the end of

each year to the State Dental Council during renewal of Registration, that would be subject to a random audit.

10. The CDE provider has to submit the following details along with the proposal, one month in advance of the date of CDE program to Registrar, Karnataka State Dental Council.

- The title of the Course /Program.
- Date, Time, Duration and Place.
- Course Curriculum/Content, learning objectives, Target Groups.
- Speakers /Faculty CVs, Profiles with Copy of Registration Certificates of Respective State Dental Council (including Foreign Faculty as well). A provisional registration is a must for Foreign Faculty if they are working on patients.
- Details of Lectures, Demonstration and Hands –on (clinical procedure).

11. The CDE provider should request for CDE credit points in a prescribed form electronically and through the hard copy subsequently, so as to reach the Karnataka State Dental Council at least 30 days before the event. Other organisations, Academic Bodies ,there will be a processing fee of RS 200/ per hour ,RS 6000/- per day with every application and RS .18000/- for 3 days CDE program with a maximum of 18 points awarded at a time for one event DCI Recognised Colleges will not be charged any fee for awarding CDE points if the Registration is free , Otherwise a nominal fee of RS 1000/- per day to be paid to the State Dental Council.

12. The approval will be sent to the CDE providers within 15 days after receiving the request for the award of credit points which will be displayed and get a seal done from the KSDC on the certificates to be issued by the CDE provider to the participants.

13. Within 15 days of completion of the event, all the CDE providers should submit the following details in Excel format

- A complete list of participants with the registration Number with date of the Registration related to CDE credit points.
- A feedback form(prescribed format will be made available on the website)
- Any changes in the final completed program list in comparison with the one submitted earlier should be brought to the notice of the State Dental Council.

14. The Delegates should enter their Karnataka State Dental Council Registration Number and Signature while registering with the program, during their entry at the venue on the 1st day of program itself.

15. After the program, a short report of the program and list of participants with their Karnataka State Dental Council Registration Number and Signature should be submitted to the Registrar, Karnataka State Dental Council within 7 days.

16. Assessment Form of the CDE Program by the participants is also be sent to the State Dental Council for the feedback about the course.

17. In case of violations of the Regulation, the CDE Committee will examine the same and recommend for necessary action.

CONCLUSION

CDE is a lifelong learning process pursued by dentists. The concept of CDE as a mode to update or enrich the knowledge will always be fruitful to dentists as well as the patients. Conducting CDEs will bring efficiency to the process and help in spreading newer aspects to a large group within a short time, to bring out the best in dental practices. We as dentist should always follow the principle of being a student throughout life which will benefit the profession. Whatever be the degree of a dentist (masters or bachelor's) we must enrich, upgrade their knowledge through Continuing Dental Education programs which will benefit not only the clinical practice but the patients and dentistry also.

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