The plight of medical faculty in dental colleges of India

The subject content and topics taught to dental students are similar to those taught to medical students. Around 70%–80% of the curricula are similar for BDS and MBBS courses for basic sciences taught in the first and second year.

The medical faculty of dental colleges is recruited as per rules and regulations of the Medical Council of India (MCI). But even after several years of teaching in a dental college, their contribution is not recognized, not even a second of their time spent in dental teaching is counted and they are demoted to the lowest position in a medical college, thus creating a ‘class within class’ for the medical faculty. Earlier there were no separate dental colleges unlike today, which recruit full-time medical faculty as per the rules and regulations laid down by the MCI.

The MCI has failed in its duty in framing ‘rules and regulations’ for such medical teachers in dental colleges. The MCI and Dental Council of India need to sort out the problem faced by many medical and dental teachers.

MCI recognizes non-medical MSc and PhD degree holders as medical teachers, so why not us? Further, in a medical college the number of faculty members is more, whereas in a dental college only one or two faculty members look after all the teaching-related activities of the students. As a result, teachers like us take at times three times the lectures compared with those taken by the faculty in a medical college. The faculty takes all the practicals and demonstrations too, which in a medical college are left to postgraduate students and senior residents.

Since faculty is recruited by a selection board in any medical college, medical faculty with teaching experience in dental colleges should be given a fair chance instead of being made ineligible to appear in the interview as per rules of the MCI.

To fight this injustice, we the medical faculty teaching in dental colleges have formed an Association of Medical Faculty in Dental Colleges (AMFADEC), registered under the Society Registration Act of 1980, and have submitted our representation to the MCI several times.

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