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Future aspirations of interns of dental institutions in Karachi, Pakistan

Aim: The purpose of this study was to evaluate the aspirations and influencing factors of dental house officers to pursue advancements in their careers as dental professionals.

Material & Methods: This was a cross-sectional, observational study. A self-administered questionnaire was designed to evaluate their inclination to choose dentistry as a career. It took into account the participants' demographic and socioeconomic details along with a list of 30 factors grouped into three sections that were rated on a Likert scale. The sections covered career influencing factors, future career plans and interest in dental post-graduate specialties. Data from 220 respondents was recorded and analyzed using descriptive statistics.

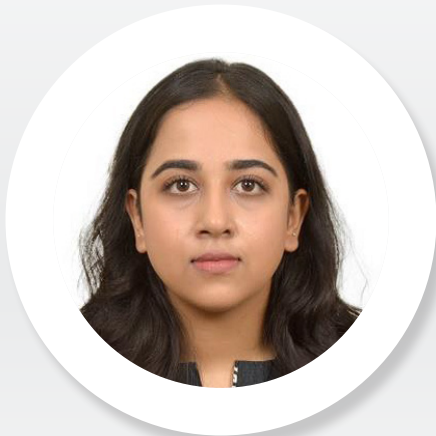
Results: The results showed that majority of the respondents were females (68.7%) and belonged to a middle socioeconomic background (65.4%). Age in the sample ranged from 22-25 years. Majority of the respondents reported financial stability (45.8%) and altruistic motives (37.5%) as the main encouragements to choose dentistry as a career. Work opportunities abroad (52.2%) and post-graduate studies (33.6%) were the most coveted future career plans. Participants expressed their greatest interest in the sub-specialty fields of oral surgery (42.9%) and operative and restorative dentistry (37.4%).

Conclusions: The future aspirations associated with dentistry as a career were primarily materialistic and academic. It would seem that dental interns in Karachi, Pakistan find more opportunities abroad and wish to work towards brighter future prospects. They also aim to pursue post-graduate studies and research which would ensure dentistry as a constantly progressing and prevailing area of healthcare.

Biography

Sonia Sameen is a Dentist who completed her professional studies from the prestigious Dow University of Health Sciences in Karachi, Pakistan in 2017. She has two international publications and currently serving as Assistant Editor for Dental and Medical News Group, Pakistan. She also practices Dentistry in a private clinic. With aspirations to pursue a career in public health in the future, she is a dedicated and precision-oriented person who is proud to be a part of the global healthcare community.

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