

## **Why Indian Journal of Forensic Odontology ?**

It has been unresistable urge and desire to dissipate the knowledge of forensic odontology to dental profession since the second year of my dental education in one of the most famous dental schools in northan India and was constantly and persistently encouraged by my friends specially Dr. Jasdeep Kaur (Kapurthala) and my mentors Prof. S.C.Anand, Dr.Simmi Kharb and Dr. Rajnish K.Jain in dental as well as medical profession. They, from time to time have been requested to provide information to police concerning their patients and also by friends and teachers in many disciplines who advised and collaborated towards our common goal "**The Pursuit of Justice**". Although, forensic odontology has close links to forensic medicine, yet it is concerned not so much with the cause of injury or death, but with identification of the victim. The role of forensic odontologist is to offer an advice and opinion to the judicial courts in matters lying within his/her professional training and experience, when they are requested to appear as an expert odontologist during investigations. The collection of dental evidence, its interperatation and presentation should be in the most useful form when requested . At present there is no formal training and course in forensic odontology in dental education in India. This has resulted in lack of availability of forensic dentist which is a must, for identification and confirmation of individual and victim involved in crime and legal cases. It is further possible to estimate age and determination of sex by forensic odontology. All efforts shall be made to provide recent information pertaining to forensic odontology and its legal applications in this journal and in addition all expert authorities shall be requested to actively participate consistently by presenting most valuable contributions in this publication to pursuit imparting of recent forensic odontological as well as legal application of this aspect. The oblivious disparity of not including forensic odontology in the curriculum of B.D.S. course, resulting into complete ignorance and indifference of the dental profession shall be highlighted, unless such an action is taken the advancement in this subject will suffer because of inability to start postgraduate course in this subject because of above reason. There has to be point of discussion in the executive committee of DCI (Dental Council of India) to direct the various dental schools to start a course for undergraduates as soon as possible.

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