

Barriers for Indian Women in Dental Education

Women form an increasingly important part of the dentally trained workforce in North India. However, little is known about the professional issues and work-related problems affecting women dentists. Gone are the days when the leadership positions in dentistry and health care professions were occupied solely by males and the women in-charge were looked down upon as anomalies. The staff rooms in dental and medical schools, the research laboratories in India today are employing women, who have quietly begun challenging the conventional male ideas that had shaped the policies earlier on. Women have advanced considerably in academic dentistry but like every coin, this story too, has two sides. In spite of the considerable gain in equity of status, women in research and academic careers related to health care professions still face innumerable barriers to their careers. It has been reported that 2/3 of the subjects feel there are more barriers to their careers as women than men and health care professions

definitely need more women leaders for improvement in women's health status globally. 2/3 of women in dentistry feel their family commitments are barriers to rising in their careers and more than 2/3 report that a marriage is happier if the husband's career graph is better than wife's. The results of the study show that there certainly has been a change in outlook of Indian women as they have broken the traditional norms and taken up careers in academic dentistry¹⁻². There certainly is a positive side to this story but numerous challenges especially in the form of family commitments still remain for women in leadership positions in the dental colleges in India. Major factors identified in study were the women's dual responsibility at home and at work

References

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