

Committed to Dental Excellence

16 August 2011

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad
Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India
Nirman Bhawan
New Delhi 110 011

Hon'ble Minister, Sir

Sub: Preparation of Complete Database of Registered Dentists

You will be happy to know that the Indian Dental Association, a professional organization committed to promoting better oral health in the country, has been devising various measures with a view to enhancing the understanding of successful approaches towards developing, nurturing and managing resource personnel in the dental health sector. Towards this end, IDA plans to conduct, under the aegis of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, a National Workshop of Presidents and Secretaries of the State Dental Councils with the singular objective of developing a proper database of dental personnel resources in the country.

The Workshop, among other things, would focus on devising a uniform pattern of registration of dentists throughout the country. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide its letter dated 5 May, 2005 had conveyed that the Ministry has no objection to IDA conducting the Workshop (Enclosure 1).

The benefits of such a system would include:

- online registration of dental surgeons
- assessment by the Ministry of Health of the dental personnel resources available in the country, their distribution and placement, their adequacy or otherwise
- assessment of shortages of dental health personnel, especially in critical areas like specialist dentists
- improved oral health policy making and programme designing
- maintenance of quality of human resources for dental health and develop ancillary personnel like health hygienists, and other support staff.

The *Dental Council of India and its affiliates at the States will be able to suitably plan management of resources* to avoid skewed distribution and make effective and efficient use of dental health personnel. All these would be possible at the click of a button once the project is implemented.

A National Workshop on Strategic Planning for Dental Personnel Resource Development & Oral Health Planning was organized by IDA in September 2005 with the support of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Dental Council of India. An All India Wellness Initiative was also organized in November 2006 under the aegis of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Enclosure 2) following which an All India Oral Health Survey was conducted in 2007.

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You may also be happy to know that IDA has made significant contributions to oral healthcare management in the country by setting up the Oral Cancer Foundation (August 2007), Tobacco Intervention Initiative Centres for tobacco cessation and Spot Centres (May 2009) for early detection of oral cancer.

A Child Development Centre set up in February 2010 aims at prevention of dental decay among children. Dental caries is said to affect 1 out of 2 children and adults in India and hence it is a major initiative on the part of IDA to safeguard the oral health of children.

At the first International Symposium on Oral Cancer which IDA hosted jointly with FDI World Dental Federation in June this year, an Oral Cancer Registry exclusively to register cases of oral cancer was also launched.

These are only few instances of IDA's contribution to improving the oral health index in the country.

We are planning to make a presentation of the Database to you in your office at a date and time convenient to you so that, as the Minister in charge of the health portfolio, you would be in a position to understand the distribution of dental personnel and their deployment in the country for effective policy planning purposes. The representatives of State Dental Council can be invited to be present at the presentation which is expected to take 15-20 minutes.

We look forward to your cooperation and support to make this project a grand success.

I would be grateful if you could kindly indicate a suitable date and time convenient to you so that we could plan the presentation accordingly.

Thanking you and with respectful regards,

Yours sincerely



Dr Ashok Dhoble
Hon Secretary General

Enclosure: Letters from MOH & FW, GOI

Copy with compliments to:
Dr Dibyendu Mazumdar
President, DCI, New Delhi