Hastening total health revolution in India: Linking e-health with online registration system developed by IDA

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Dr Sabyasachi Saha
Secretary

Dental Council of India

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Dear Dr Saha

Subject: Hastening total health revolution in India: Linking e-health with online registration system developed by IDA

Given below is the sequence of events that culminated in the development of the web-based software that facilitates a uniform pattern of online registration of dental professionals in the country. This is for your information.

1. Background

National Workshop on "Strategic Evaluation and Future Planning for Dental Personnel Resource Development" (17-18 September, 2005) Presided by Dr Anbumani Ramadoss, former Union Health Minister. (see images 01 to 04)

The two-day Workshop organized under the aegis of MoHFW was held from 17-18 September, 2005 in Mumbai. The workshop recommended development of a highly credible system for effective utilisation of dental personnel resources in the country. This task was entrusted to IDA. Thereafter,

a) Dr Anil Kohli, the then President of DCI, vide letter dated 6 March, 2006 instructed Presidents & Registrars of all State Development Councils (SDCs) to extend all support to IDA.

b) DCI vide letter dated 20 June, 2006 forwarded to IDA the data of dentists from three states.

c) Again, the Secretary, DCI, vide his letter dated 15 September 2006 instructed all SDCs to share dentists registration data with IDA for digitisation and data collation with DCI.

d) The software developed by IDA was presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Dental Council of India at Kolkata in September 2011. It was well appreciated by all concerned.

e) A committee comprising Dr Satish Kumar Reddy, Dr Pradeep Chandra Shetty, Dr T.N. Tilakraj and Dr Ashok Dhoble was formed to look into the feasibility and financial aspects of implementation. Former president of DCI, Dr. Anil Kohli, endorsed the concept.

2. Final Workshop - 22 January, 2013 - presided by Dr. Vishwas Mehta, Jt Secretary, MoHFW (see images 05 to 10)

Subsequently, a one day Workshop was organized in Mumbai at Sahyadri Guest House, on Tuesday, 22 January, 2013 presided over by Dr. Vishwas Mehta, the then Joint Secretary, MoHFW, Government of India. The web-based software which was modified on the basis of suggestions received from stakeholders was presented before all the stakeholders – Government of India, State Governments, DCI, SDCs and others. The system developed offered a digital mechanism that enabled online registration of dental professionals in the country at a point of time.

Dr Mehta, who released the software, stressed on the need for speedier implementation of the system by the Dental Council of India and its affiliates, viz., the State Dental Councils, to facilitate establishment of a uniform pattern of registration of dental healthcare providers in the country to facilitate better delivery of oral healthcare services.

The software developed was accepted unanimously by all the stakeholders.

3. Implementation

The Secretary, Dental Council of India, in a letter dated 25 March 2013 addressed to Health Secretaries of all States, Director, Medical Education of all States and Registrars of all SDCs requested acceptance of IDA software for online registration management. Implementation proceeded as under:

a) Maharashtra State Dental Council was the first to adopt the software. The system was installed on *12 September 2013 at the hands of the DCI President, Dr Dibyendu Mazumdar. (see images 12 to 14)*

b) *Himachal SDC was the next to adopt it on 16 September 2013.* The installation ceremony was attended by the DCI President. (see images 15 to 17)

c) Other SDCs such as Chandigarh (02 March 2014), Delhi (15 March, 2014) followed.

d) Bihar, Haryana and Arunachal Pradesh SDCs are in the process of adoption and installation.

4. Involvement of PMO

The Hon'ble Prime Minister has been emphasising on national health assurance which will provide universal healthcare and comprehensive health insurance cover for the poor.   He has also been speaking of the importance of digital health and calling for institutionalizing a comprehensive database, containing individual health records, which could be eventually linked to the Aadhar system and emphasising on the need for establishing synergies in all health schemes being implemented by the Central and State Governments.

Consistent with the national priority of improving health, IDA in its letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister dated 29 September 2016 had said that the health revolution, which the prime minister was speaking about, can be hastened by the creation of a national health registry of healthcare professionals in the country.

IDA had stated in the letter that a system which provides authentic data of healthcare professionals available at a point of time state-wise, district-wise, gender-wise, and speciality-wise like what IDA has developed in case of dental personnel resources in the country would be highly useful.

5. Presentation at PMO (8 August 2016)

As desired by the PMO, a presentation was made on 8 August 2016 before Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State ((I/C) for DoNER. He greatly appreciated the usefulness of the software for improving the oral health scenario in the country. A very fruitful discussion ensued thereafter.

PMO then forwarded the letter sent by IDA to the Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, vide its communication PMO ID No.:PM0PG/D/2016/0292059 Dated: Q5/10/2016, a copy of which was also marked to IDA.

6. Presentation to Hon'ble Health Minister (October, 2016)

Earlier, in October 2016, a presentation was also made to the Hon'ble Union Health Minister, Shri J.P. Nadda, who greatly appreciated the software which he felt could facilitate speedier e-health management. Besides, the use of the system, Shri Nadda felt, helped in understanding the distribution of dental personnel and their deployment in the country for effective policy planning.   He then advised IDA to discuss the matter with the Secretary, MoHFW, for further follow up.

7. Presentation to Shri C.K. Mishra IAS, Secretary, MoHFW (November 2016)

At the instance of the Union Health Minister, discussions were held with Shri C.K. Mishra IAS, Secretary, MoHFW, November 2016. Shri Mishra was very appreciative of the work done by IDA and promised his Ministry's support and cooperation in establishing a highly credible system for effective utilisation of dental personnel resources in the country. The Secretary assured that the Ministry was keenly interested in the implementation of the system that provided authentic data of the dental healthcare resources personnel at any point of time.

8. Presentation to Shri Arun Singhal IAS, Jt. Secretary, MoHFW

Thereafter, as desired by Shri Mishra, Secretary, MoHFW, a presentation of the software was made on 6 December 2016 before the Joint Secretary, MoHFW, Shri Arun Singhal IAS. It was impressed upon Shri Singhal that the data can be safely uploaded on the

government's IT server or interlinked with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare website as deemed fit. Shri Singhal greatly appreciated the usefulness of the software for effective utilisation and an equitable distribution of dental service providers in the country to implement the oral health component of the National Health Policy of the government.

9. Presentation before Secretary, DCI (13 December 2016)

As advised by Shri Arun Singhal, a presentation was made before the Secretary of Dental Council of India, Dr Sabyasachi Saha, and the IT personnel of DCI on 13 December, 2016. Dr Saha greatly appreciated the work done by IDA and agreed that the system developed can provide authentic database of dental professionals in the country at a point of time, state-wise, district-wise, gender-wise and speciality-wise, besides the convenience of being easily managed resulting in economy of time and costs.

He appreciated the system's usefulness in facilitating effective deployment of the dental healthcare personnel in the country and better monitoring by DCI and State Dental Councils. Dr Saha hoped that the Dental Council of India and its affiliates in the States will be able to suitably plan and implement the system at the earliest.

10. Presentation before the Executive Council, DCI (14 December, 2016)

Having learnt of the uniform pattern of online registration system developed by IDA and its usefulness in an era dominated by digital health, the Secretary DCI desired that the Executive Council be briefed of its usefulness and applicability for all healthcare-related applications, technologies and delivery systems.

Accordingly, a presentation of the software developed by IDA on the uniform pattern of online registration of dental professionals in the country and its instant connectivity to seek information on the authentic data on dental personnel resources available in the country at a point of time.   The EC greatly appreciated the work carried out by IDA and desired DCI to take up its implementation in those SDCs which have not yet adopted the system for various reasons at the earliest.

To sum up, the web-based software developed by IDA offers a digital mechanism that enables online registration of dental professionals in the country which will give authentic data about the dental healthcare professionals at a point of time. Additionally, the system

can be utilised for institutionalizing a comprehensive database, containing individual health records, which could be eventually linked to the Aadhar system, as envisioned by our Hon'ble Prime Minister. This system can also be utilised for implementation of Clinical Establishment Act and Accreditation of Continuing Dental Education Programme, to promote professional development of dental surgeons.

Kindly let us know when you will start implementing the system in the national interest.

With best regards,

Dr Ashok Dhoble

Hon Secretary General
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Copy with compliments to:

1. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi (ref. PM0PG/D/2016/0292059 Dated: Q5/10/2016)

2. Hon'ble Union Health Minister, Shri J.P. Nadda

3. Shri C.K. Mishra, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India

4. Shri Arun Singhal, Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India

5. Dr Dibyendu Mazumdar, President, Dental Council of India

6. Dr. Jayakar S. M., Vice President – Dental Council of India

7. Dr. Anil Singla, EC member – Dental Council of India

8. Dr. Debashish Banerjee, EC member – Dental Council of India

9. Dr. Revathi P., EC member – Dental Council of India

10. Dr. S. K. Katharia, EC member – Dental Council of India

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17 attachments

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