



FACTORS PROMOTING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TO CHOOSE ORTHODONTICS AS FUTURE CARRIER IN A DENTAL COLLEGE IN UDAIPUR CITY, RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

Aim: The Objective of the present study is to explore factors promoting undergraduate students to choose orthodontics as future carrier.

Material and Methods: The present study is cross-sectional, descriptive questionnaire study. The study is conducted in a private dental college in Udaipur city, Rajasthan. The study subjects were from final year and Internship students as these has proper knowledge about all the specialties and looking forward to choose the appropriate field for further studies. The questionnaire was carefully designed to maximize the response rate and minimize missing data.

Results: Majority of study participants {168 (89%)} were above 20 years of age. 104 (55%) of study participants were females. Love and passion for orthodontics is the main promoting factor for 24(27%) of study participants to choose this speciality.

Conclusions: It has been concluded that orthodontics is one of popular branch among undergraduate student for further studies. Passion and affection for orthodontics promoted undergraduate student to choose this branch for further study.

KEYWORDS: dental students, orthodontics, carrer

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INTRODUCTION

The factors influencing the choice of a dental profession are very important in terms of identifying the expectations of the profession.¹ Several studies have reported that the majority of the undergraduate dental students prefer to continue their education toward a

specialty degree.²⁻⁴ This has important implications for the dental workforce planning agenda in any country. With an increase in demand for dental treatment and with an increase in supply of dental schools, a striking balance between dental needs and supply is inevitable.

This branch of dentistry deals

with prevention and correction of irregular teeth by means of braces. Orthodontia, also known as orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, was the first specialty created in the meadow of dentistry. Orthodontists deal with treatment of malocclusions, which may be a result of tooth irregularity and/or

disproportionate jaw relationships. Orthodontics has gained immense popularity as a postgraduate dental specialty program in India.^{5,6}

Several surveys have reported on the job satisfaction, life-style, career of orthodontic residents in the United States^{7,8} Canada^{9,10} and United Kingdom (UK).^{11,12} These studies provide a glimpse of psychology of students in selecting orthodontics as their preferred specialty. These studies showed that most orthodontic residents were interested in private practice after graduation, with only a few expressing an interest in academics.

Recognizing the motivation of dental students in choosing orthodontics as a career specialty might provide valuable information pertaining to the general perception among graduates about this specialty. Furthermore, investigating the future practice patterns of orthodontic residents might shed light on how this specialty is developing. By identifying specific orthodontic techniques that residents plan to use after graduation, educators have to know whether their program structure meets the expectations of their residents.

Not many studies in India till now had explored various factors that motivate the dental students to choose Orthodontics as carrier choice. Thus the objective of the present study is to explore factors promoting undergraduate students to choose orthodontics as future carrier.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study is cross-sectional, descriptive questionnaire study conducted to find the various factors exploring various factors that promotes undergraduate students to choose orthodontics as future carrier.

The study is conducted in a

private dental college in Udaipur city, Rajasthan. The study subjects were from final year and Internship students as these has proper knowledge about all the specialties and looking forward to choose the appropriate field for further studies.

Students who are present on the day of study was included in the study and given their informed consent. Ethical clearance was obtained from independent ethical committee.

This survey was completed during regularly scheduled class sessions of final years. Among the internship student questionnaire is distributed by the investigator in all the departments in which the postings were allotted.

The questionnaire was carefully designed to maximize the response rate and minimize missing data. The first part consists of demographic details of the students consists of age, gender, general socioeconomic status of family way of selection into undergraduate course, Business of parents. 2nd part consists of 3 questions which consist of choice of speciality, time since choice of speciality and reasons for the choice. 3rd part of questionnaire consists of 1 question which enquires about the type of professional setting the study participants who choose Orthodontic as their carrier choice want to work in future.

Before the main study a pilot study was performed to check the validity and reliability of questionnaire. Reliability of the Questionnaire was assessed by using Test-Retest and the values of measured Kappa (k) = 0.83 Weighted Kappa (k_w) = 0.7. Internal consistency of questionnaires was assessed by applying Chronbachs-Alpha (α) and the value of α = 0.74 was measured.

The data was entered in

Microsoft excel 2007. Descriptive analysis was applied; numbers and percentages were presented in tables.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows that majority of study participants {168 (89%)} were above 20 years of age. 104 (55%) of study participants were females. Most of study participants {72(38%)} were of good socio-economic status. Most of the students {119 (63%)} of had got selection in undergraduate course through government exam. Most of the parents had private business {80 (43%)}

Table 2 shows various factors influencing the choice of Orthodontics among the study participants. Out of all study participants 90 (48%) of study participants wants Orthodontic as their future career prospect. Most of study participants {85 (95%)} had decided to take up Orthodontic as career speciality during their study in college of Dentistry. Love and passion for Orthodontics is the main promoting factor for 24(27%) of study participants to choose this speciality.

Table 3 shows that Majority of Fourth year students {22 (45%)} wants to work in their own private clinics in future. 18 (44%) Internship students also want to work in their own clinics. Only consultancy 13 (15%) is least preferred choice among all study participants.

DISCUSSION

As told previously no study in Indian setting has not been conducted to explore the factors promoting the future choice of subject. So present study data is discussed with other studies^{13 14} conducted in foreign settings.

As the present study is conducted on undergraduate students the majority of study participants were more than 20 years of age, not more than

23 years to 24 years. As compared to study conducted by Nasir Al-Hamlan et al¹³ who conducted the study on Saudi Board of Orthodontics (SB-Ortho) residents therefore age of study participants was more than 40 years.

Table 1. Demographic status of study participants.

| Demographic details of study subjects | 4 th year students N (%) | Internship students n (%) | Total n (%) |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Age | | | |
| Below or equal to 20 years | 18 (20%) | 2 (2%) | 20 (11%) |
| Above 20 years | 74 (80%) | 94 (98%) | 168 (89%) |
| Total | 92 (100%) | 96 (100%) | 188 (100%) |
| Gender | | | |
| Male | 41 (45%) | 43 (45%) | 84 (45%) |
| Female | 51 (55%) | 53 (55%) | 104 (55%) |
| Total | 92 (100%) | 96 (100%) | 188 (100%) |
| Socio-economic status of family | | | |
| Good | 34 (37%) | 38 (40%) | 72 (38%) |
| Fair | 32 (35%) | 30 (31%) | 62 (33%) |
| Poor | 26 (28%) | 28 (29%) | 54 (29%) |
| Total | 92 (100%) | 96 (100%) | 188 (100%) |
| Way of selection into undergraduate course | | | |
| Government | 58 (63%) | 61 (64%) | 119 (63%) |
| Private | 34 (27%) | 35 (26%) | 69 (27%) |
| Total | 92 (100%) | 96 (100%) | 188 (100%) |
| Parents of business or private service | | | |
| Medical | 33 (36%) | 22 (23%) | 55 (29%) |
| Private business | 42 (46%) | 38 (40%) | 80 (43%) |
| Government or private service | 17 (18%) | 36 (37%) | 53 (28%) |
| Total | 92 (100%) | 96 (100%) | 188 (100%) |

Table 2. Factors influencing the choice of orthodontic as future prospect.

| FACTORS EFFECTING THE CHOICE | 4 th year students N (%) | Internship students N (%) | Total N (%) |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Do you select Orthodontic as your future prospect | | | |
| Yes | 49 (53%) | 41 (43%) | 90 (48%) |
| No | 43 (47%) | 55 (57%) | 98 (52%) |
| Total | 92 (100%) | 96 (100%) | 188 (100%) |
| When did you decide to select orthodontics as your career specialty? | | | |
| Before entering the College of Dentistry | 4 (8%) | 1 (2%) | 5 (5%) |
| During my study at the College of Dentistry | 45 (92%) | 40 (98%) | 85 (95%) |
| Total | 49 (100%) | 41 (100%) | 90 (100%) |
| Why did you choose orthodontics as your specialty | | | |
| Orthodontics is intellectually challenging | 8 (16%) | 3 (7%) | 11 (12%) |
| Influence of the family like working with younger patients | 2 (4%) | 1 (3%) | 3 (3%) |
| Better teaching opportunities in speciality | 3 (6%) | 1 (3%) | 4 (4%) |
| Better research opportunities | 6 (12%) | 7 (17%) | 13 (15%) |
| Better research opportunities | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| Love and passion for orthodontics | 11 (22%) | 13 (32%) | 24 (27%) |
| Inspiration from the faculty member | 6 (12%) | 2 (5%) | 8 (9%) |
| Good job prestige brings better money with less effort and risk | 1 (3%) | 1 (3%) | 2 (2%) |
| 12 (25%) | 12 (25%) | 13 (32%) | 25 (28%) |
| Total | 49 (100%) | 41 (100%) | 90 (100%) |

Table 3. Type of professional settings study participants wants to work in future.

| Professional Settings | | 4 th year students N (%) | Internship students N (%) | Total N (%) |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| In what type of professional setting in future you want to work for practicing Orthodontics | Private college | 11 (22%) | 8 (20%) | 19 (21%) |
| | Own private clinic | 22 (45%) | 18 (44%) | 40 (44%) |
| | Government College | 10 (20%) | 8 (20%) | 18 (20%) |
| | Consultancy only | 6 (13%) | 7 (16%) | 13 (15%) |
| Total | | 49 (100%) | 41 (100%) | 90 (100%) |

In the present study participants were selected from Final year and Internship students as during these academic years the students will get the ideas about the future prospects as compared to study by George Sam¹⁴ in which academic years one to four was included as study subjects.

In the present study socio economic status, way of selection into undergraduate course was also included but neither of the other studies there factors were not included as in India selection of future course is influenced by these factors.

In the present study 48% of study subjects were interested in taking up Orthodontics as their future prospect as compared to 38% in the study by George Sam¹⁴ and in the study by Nasir Al-Hamlan¹³ 39 % of study participants had selected Orthodontics as their future career. While study by Halawany HS et al¹⁵ only 11.4% of study participants want to do future career choice as orthodontics.

In the present study 85(95%) of study subjects had decided to take up Orthodontic as career speciality during the study at the college of dentistry. Same results were seen study by George Sam. In the study by Nasir Al-Hamlan et al¹³ 33% selected the career during the undergraduate education while the rest chose the specialty at other stages.

In the present study love and passion for Orthodontics is the main influencing factor to take up this subject. In the study by Nasir Al-Hamlan¹³ and

George Sam¹⁴ majority of study subjects take up Orthodontics because it is intellectual challenging.

In the present study most of the study participants want to work in their own dental clinic as compared to study by George Sam¹⁴ in which majority in different settings at a time.

The present study is cross-sectional study which can be a short coming as through longitudinal study long term influence of various factors can be estimated.

CONCLUSIONS

From above results it has been concluded that Orthodontics is one of popular branch among Undergraduate student for further studies. Passion and love for Orthodontics promoted undergraduate student to choose this branch for further study.

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