



EDITORIAL



Using various teaching methods: changing trends and tradition!!

In professional fields such as dentistry, effective teaching is absolutely crucial for student learning. The current dental students represent an extensive range in terms of their cultures, experiences, personalities, learning preferences and styles. This diversity poses as a challenge for the dental educators to meet the educational needs. Achieving an increased level of student satisfaction and improving the learning environment are vital objectives for dental educators, given the monotonous dental curriculum.

To achieve effective learning, it is critically important to clear up the goals, define self-directed and cooperative learning, present proper classroom management, and, of course, understand the students and their requirements due to their diversity. A teacher must focus on incorporating different teaching modalities that will ultimately reflect on their teaching efficiency.

Moreover, teaching can be modified to integrate classroom teaching by not only acquiring knowledge, but also developing critical thinking and clinical reasoning. Teaching methods have already been developed over the years from the normal traditional didactic teaching to various other methods like problem based learning, flip classrooms, role plays, small group teaching, syndicates, quiz-game etc. Furthermore, it is also suggested not to abandon the not-so-new teaching/learning methods that are still worthy of consideration in dental education that have been proven to be efficient time and again. Professional students such as the ones from dentistry need a higher level of critical thinking which can be incorporated by experiencing above methods for better clinical judgment skills and effective patient care so that they can promptly apply the learned concepts when presented with challenging cases.

No teaching pattern has been proven to be individually successful and so our focus should not be to find a winner but instead determine how best to incorporate different educational practices into standard teaching/learning formats in an effort to find the perfect intersection of motivated teachers and students, effective educational methods, and a positive, supportive learning environment.

“Those who dare to teach must never cease to learn”.....

Dr. Tapasya Karemore

Editor