



## THE DET UNIT OF VSPM DCRC: AN EXAMPLE OF COURAGE AND CONVICTION.

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**T**he most undisputed fact about education is that “Teachers play a vital role in shaping the personality of a student” and medical education is no exception. Health science teacher imparts knowledge & skill for sure but the domain that is silently being ‘rubbed in’ is the attitude.

In the systems approach of health science education, the input (student admission) is not in the hands of the teacher and much is expected from him while looking at the output (exam results). What is in his hand is the process. And here is the role of education technology, to impart training to strengthen the process. And hence an urgent need for all health science institutes to have a working education technology unit in place.

The silver lining is that what was once shown as a room with an OHP during council inspections is now developing into independent units. This transformation from a show piece, non functional, inspection compliance education technology room to a vibrant, committed working unit is more evident in medical colleges. The Medical Council of India through their nodal centers have been able to make inroads in this important yet neglected area.

The same is unfortunately not true with dental colleges in India. Most of them depend for support from the MET units of sister medical colleges if at all located in the same campus.

But there is always an exception. The story of DET unit of VSPM’s Dental College and Research Center, Nagpur is one of its kind. I am a witness to what started as a three member education technology team supported by the MET unit of the sister medical college of VSPM to an established, independent, self sufficient dental education technology unit in just one academic year. The journey that started as a challenge had its own hiccups and the usual resistance from within. But committed leadership, perseverance, team building and never say die attitude of the core group showed the fraternity the need and the usefulness of establishing a DET unit independent of external support for enhancing the teaching learning process.

Let this be a model example for other dental colleges in India who will sooner or later realize the importance of such a move in setting global standards in dental education.