

INTRODUCTION

Public Health Dentistry is the science and art of preventing and controlling dental diseases and promoting dental health through organized community efforts. It is the area of specialization promoting health and prevention of dental diseases. The department of Public Health Dentistry identifies various methods to promote oral health; by analyzing the needs of oral health, development and implementation of oral health policy and serving with procedures to address oral health issues.

The Department of Public Health Dentistry offers Bachelor (B.D.S.), Masters (M.D.S.) and Ph.D. Degree Programs in Public Health Dentistry. The faculty provides enhanced training programs to the students helping them to develop a vision to create awareness regarding oral and systemic health. Under Graduate (BDS) program provides the training, regular scheduled lectures and clinical postings in the third and fourth year. The post graduate (MDS) program equips the candidates with the knowledge, skills and expertise to identify social, economic and environmental determinants in a given individual or community for planning and executing Community Oral Health Programs, as well as ability to conduct Oral Health Surveys and Research.

Since the inception of postgraduate program in 2006, Department of Public Health Dentistry has produced a total of 29 post-graduate students. The department currently has an intake of 3 post graduate students per year. Hence, the number of research projects has been increasing over the years.

The department has been actively involved in providing comprehensive treatment, education, awareness, counseling and means regarding oral health care to the oppressed and inaccessible sections of the society alongside the masses with due concern to special care groups like school children and specially abled individual. The department has been

an active participant in Colgate's Bright Smiles Bright Future program targeting the school children. The department has been successful in providing preventive, therapeutic and rehabilitative care to the needy free of cost. We also have a well equipped, fully functional and state of the art mobile dental unit specially designed to target remote areas. Provision has been made for referral of the patients requiring advanced care to the institution at subsidized rates.

The department is also running satellite oral health centres with complete clinical infra structure for ensuring oral health services, outside the college campus as well. We are actively involved in organizing mass awareness campaigns through rallies and demonstrations and various health awareness programs on special days like Oral Hygiene Day, World No Tobacco Day, World AIDS Day, etc. to cite a few. The department also has an oral health education museum situated in ground floor containing a plethora of health education materials, models, charts, portraits and exhibits contributed by the undergraduate students as their project works.

Prolific use of audio visual aids for health education of the masses has been widely supplemented with numerous movies that have been made by the post graduate students of the department with the cooperation of the undergraduate students. As far as the postgraduate course is concerned, the department has immensely promoted the conduct of numerous research studies including experimental and epidemiological studies. The faculty has been constantly encouraging the post

graduates for publication of the research projects in various national and international journals.

Research is an integral part of the mission at Rama University, Faculty of Dental Sciences. Through scholarship, creativity, dedication, hard work, and commitment our investigators shape the future of dental medicine and dental education.

Research teams are diverse and comprise faculty, undergraduate and postgraduate dental students, as well as PhD students. The scope of research is broad, spanning areas of basic, clinical, public health, and preventive dentistry.