

Editorial

It is a matter of great satisfaction that Bachelor of Dental Surgery (B.D.S.) course is going to start in Nepal, before we could enter the next millenium. Of course, this effort will limit outflux of money of the country abroad. As we can see mushrooming of the medical colleges in country without much of quality control, it is difficult to say that same may not repeat in dental education also. We shall opt for cautious optimism. We have to be optimistic regarding the easy availability of dental education within the country at the same time we shall be prepared not to compromise regarding the quality of dental education. It is my duty to let the readers to know about ongoing cold war between Nepal Dental Association and Nepal Medical Council. The council has imposed that the head of the dental institution may be a post-graduate medical person not necessitating the dental personnel. Here, we differ from the medical council as the quality may suffer. I would like to attract their attention regarding the trends as an Ophthalmologist or a Pediatrician can only head the Ophthalmologic or pediatric institute in the country respectively, for an example. Why a post-graduate dental surgeon only can not head a dental institute? This should be a matter of discussion and in fact should make it as a compulsion.

Friends, the time has come we must stand together for the professional development. I think, the entire shortcomings are due to inadequate representation of our members in the council, where the voice can be heard. The twenty two member executive committee in the Nepal Medical Council can easily outnumber the voice of the single member representing the dental profession. Besides, the dental member representing in the medical council should stand firmly for the professional benefit so that the huge medical colleagues may not unduly impose their decisions on issues related to dental profession. Otherwise, the dental professionals representing for medical council should be in position to deny the undue thoughts imposed on them.

It is high time now, we should have a separate dental council where the voice for the professional benefit is not overheard. A country either has medical & dental council together or separate medical and separate dental council. In the previous instance there are adequate representations of dental professionals who can think for the betterment of the profession and are never overheard. While in later, there is no question of ignorance as they have separate entity to think and do for the betterment of the profession.

Thus we need to club together and sing the same chorus as unity is strength that too only for the professional and people's benefit.