

Editorial

The day has come; the Nepalese dentistry has started to feel gratified and self-reliant in the field of dental service, academics and human resources. Merely one and a half decade ago, less than fifty dentists used to serve the whole country; with the dentist to population ratio of 1:400,000; now the ratio has declined to 1:40,000. At present at least six hundred dentists have been registered in the Medical Council and more than forty dental specialists are serving the population. Within a span of a decade, the nation has witnessed the establishment of five dental colleges, four dental schools, and numerous dental hospitals, clinics and dental service centers.

These facts are not just a statistics, but improvements in these figures indicate the concern and commitment towards this profession in recent years. To achieve these goals, there has been a huge interest and investment of the parents and students. Enormous dreams and ambitions succeed this accomplishment. Also, the awareness and expectation of the people, patrons and patients from this profession rises sharply. In many instances, the modality and quality of dental service offered today by the Nepalese dentistry is comparable to international standards. Nepalese dental graduates have been successful in clinical practice at home and abroad, have been proved to be good academics in dental education.

Amidst the primal past and progressive present, the future of Nepalese dentistry is however on the crossroads which foresees some problems qualitatively and quantitatively in dental practice. The new generation of dental professionals is already facing problems regarding the employment and unhealthy competition. The issues that need to be addressed remains unsolved alarmingly; which include unauthorized and unethical practice by non-professionals, poor monitoring of the dental institutions, accumulation of dental practitioners in capital and urban areas only, out flux of Nepalese dentist to foreign countries, change of the profession by the dental surgeons and authorization of dental health policies in the hands of non-dental authority.

However a sunny day is still awaited that the, people from different dental fraternities come forth and work together to solve such problems in dental profession of the country. The organized effort by the dental personnel and by the dental institutions including dental association, dental colleges, specialists' group, non-governmental organizations, traders, can collectively address the issues.