

## The Triad of Dental Education, Organization and Publication

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The existence of any science including, the dentistry is attributed to the triad of development of three facets; namely education, organization and publication. The formal dental education is provided by the dental college, the profession is organized by professional association, while the scientific developments are disseminated by the scientific journals. These elements of the triad have inter-relationship in academia as well as in clinical practice. Many scientific journals are published by their respective association or institution.

The history of scientific journals began in seventeenth century, when the French publication 'Journal des sçavans' and the English publication 'Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society' were published in the year 1665 AD. Dental journalism started in 1839, when the first dental journal appeared as 'American Journal of Dental Science'. Immediately in 1840, the first dental school 'Baltimore College of Dental Surgery' and first official dental organization 'American Society of Dental Surgeons' were started.

Later in 1847, dental newsletter 'Dental Cosmos' was published by S. S. White Company. Other historic dental journals were 'Dental Items of Interest' (1879-1953), 'Western Dental Journal' (1887-1917), 'Pacific Coast Dentist' (1893-1933), and 'Dental Brief' (1896-1913). Then the profession cited the advent of journals published by professional dental organizations, viz; 'Journal of the American Dental Association' in 1912, 'Journal of the National Dental Association' in 1915 and 'Journal of Dental Research' in 1919. The first specialty dental journal 'American Orthodontist' was published by Sir Edward Angle in 1907 and 'American Journal of Orthodontics' was published by American Association of Orthodontists in 1915.

In Nepal, medical profession's pioneer organization 'Nepal Medical Association' was established in 1951; which was followed by the publication of 'Journal of Nepal Medical Association' in 1963.

'Tribhuvan University-Institute of Medicine' was established in 1972; which brought out the first institutional journal "Journal of Institute of Medicine" in 1978. The history of Nepalese dental publication dates back to 1992 when Nepal Dental Association published a maiden issue 'Dental Bulletin'; Nepal Dental Association was established earlier in 1990. Later, in 1998; Nepal Dental Association published 'Journal of Nepal Dental Association' during its first dental conference. 'Orthodontic Journal of Nepal' is the first Nepali specialty dental journal published by 'Orthodontic & Dentofacial Orthopedic Association of Nepal' in 2011. Nepalese dental fraternity saw the establishment of dental colleges 'BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences-College of Dental Surgery' and 'People's Dental College' in 1999.

There was a time when dentistry was considered as one of the branches of medicine; and it was seeking professional independence and recognition. The formation of professional dental association caused a clear rift between the medical and dental fraternities. Furthermore, dental institutions and publications contributed to the recognition of dentistry amongst the medical profession in academic and literary arena. In fact, the dental institutions have strong influence in health-care delivery to the society, and professional organizations have strong impact on professional's rights, welfare and upgradation. The journal publication plays vital role as the indicators of researcher's prowess and determinants of academic career. Journal publication thus holds the influential position to withhold the results of scientific discovery or defer the academic promotion until the research is published.

However, at this stage of time; the constituents of the triad are in threat. The dental education is in pitfall probably due to the fact that, dental professionals are overpopulated in the job-market. The dental organizations are fighting for the hierarchy and boundaries among various levels, and dental publications are struggling for their survival. On the

other side, the civic society is blaming the health caregivers for negligent and unethical behavior. The connections between the triad components are in mutual and symbiotic relationship; any hindrance to a component will jeopardize the condition of the other. When the dental education is suppressed; the bond between the professionals are feeble; and the journal publication draws the least attention. The dental journalism faces setback from its own audience, when priorities are directed elsewhere. Dental publication is also hindered when the institutional support is low. Consequently the dental publications has no material source to sustain itself thus are compelled to close. The 'Journal of Nepal Dental Association' is at present traversing through similar destiny with the consequences of sluggish, shortage and stoppage pathways. Even dentistry's first journal 'American Journal of Dental Science' had a traumatic history, which is the representative story of most of the early independent publications. It was published at a loss for several years; then it was sold to dental dealers.

This publication was revived several times until it was finally ceased.

Despite, several attempt to improve the literary situation and sincere efforts to publish the independent journal; many journals fail to sustain. Financial constrains are often cited as the primary reason, others blame it on editorial team, or the authors, or on sponsors and advertisers. Whatever are the reasons; the global experience of dental journalism could be the forewarning verdict to our young Nepalese dentistry which is crawling the path of independent and ethical journalism. All professionals, institutions and organizations should contribute for the continuation of the dental journals. Though paving through the stumbling blocks; journalism is a passion that will continue to surface. The resurgence of the Journal of Nepal Dental Association has once again occurred.

## SOURCES

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