

Dental Nurse: Most Demanding Speciality



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Abstract

Dental Nurse assists the Dentist in all aspects of patient care regarding dental treatment including surgery and also supports other members of the dental team. The main aim of this article is to focus on dental nurse scope across the world. Qualification: GNM/B.SC Nursing/PB.B.SC Nursing. Indian Dental Nursing is currently accepting students for One year studies and training leading to examination for the award of Diploma in Dental Nursing [2]. Objective of dental nursing studies programme. Any course or programme that aims to prepare students for the profession of dental nursing must demonstrate the role of a dental nurse within a variety of dental settings. It must teach how to prepare and maintain the clinical environment for a range of clinical procedures. Job description: Open and close the surgery every day. Adhere to cross-infection and health and safety protocols to the highest standard. Ensure that all equipment is adequately disinfected after every single patient and dental instruments are decontaminated correctly. Set up for each and every patient, providing the Dentist with the correct equipment and instruments. Assist the Dentist during treatment by passing relevant instruments and equipment, aspirating and retracting if necessary and Prepare and mix materials.

Keywords: Nurse; Dentistry; Hospital; surgery

Introduction

A Dental Nurse assists the Dentist in all aspects of patient care regarding dental treatment including surgery and also supports other members of the dental team. A Dental Nurse mainly works in surgery assisting the Dentist but can often work on reception and participate in administrative duties too [1] (Figure 1).



Figure 1

Qualification

- GNM
- B.SC Nursing
- PB.B.SC Nursing/ particularly trained as assistant in dental hospital.

Indian Dental Nursing is currently accepting students for One year studies and training leading to examination for the award of Diploma in Dental Nursing [2].

Objective of Dental Nursing Studies Programme

Any course or programme that aims to prepare students for the profession of dental nursing must demonstrate the role of a dental nurse within a variety of dental settings. It must teach how to prepare and maintain the clinical environment for a range of clinical procedures.

Job Description

- Open and close the surgery every day.
- Adhere to cross-infection and health and safety protocols to the highest standard.
- Ensure that all equipment is adequately disinfected after every single patient and dental instruments are decontaminated correctly.
- Set up for each and every patient, providing the Dentist with the correct equipment and instruments.
- Assist the Dentist during treatment by passing relevant instruments and equipment, aspirating and retracting if necessary.
- Prepare and mix materials.

- g) Write patient notes correctly and efficiently as dictated by the Dentist.
- h) Monitor the patient from them entering the room, during treatment and as they leave the surgery.
- i) Offer support and reassurance to patients.
- j) Carry out stock control.
- k) You'll need to reassure people and put them at ease.
- l) taking responsibility for the decontamination of instruments
- m) maintaining dental operating equipment
- n) ensuring that all relevant materials and supplies are in place
- o) looking after patient records – including making notes when the dentist is examining a patient
- p) Working closely with the dentist, responding quickly to requests and generally keeping the surgery ready for use [3].

You will also be responsible for ensuring high standards of cleanliness and control of infection. With extra training you could take x-rays and clinical photographs, take impressions, make models of teeth and apply fluoride varnish to prevent tooth decay.

Dental Nursing Scenario in India

The demand for quality health care is driving the fastest transformation of the healthcare sector in India. In India, oral health is not given its due diligence. According to a Frost and Sullivan report around 40-50 per cent of Indian population has never visited a dentist even though; nearly 70 per cent of population is suffering from dental diseases. Even then the scope for the Indian dental care services market is huge (Figure 2).



Dental Nurse is a Common Term used in Dentistry but Unfortunately India Lacks a Professional Group of Dental Nurses: Dental nurse is an integral part of the dental team but unfortunately this segment is occupied by different sets of people from non qualified individuals to professionals like registered nurse.

The Healthcare Sector in India has been Growing Rapidly in Recent Years and is Estimated to Reach a Value of \$280 Billion by 2020: Consequently, the sector is also experiencing

an incremental demand for human resources from doctors and nurses to allied health professionals and technicians. Within this context there is an increased need in the healthcare setting for qualified dental nurses with the highest standards of professionalism, skills and expertise to provide high quality patient care. As the practice of dentistry changes, the need for qualified dental nurses increases. This need is also attributed to patients' demand for skilled and qualified staff; dental nurses requiring to be familiar with a range of routine and non-routine dental procedures; the need for the highest standards of quality assurance; and continual changes in health and safety guidance and legislation. Consequently, demands and responsibilities have become greater for dental nurses working within a variety of dental environments. The professional group of dental nursing is in its infancy; however it is widely recognized that improving oral health will have a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of any population.

The Dental Nurse is an Essential Member of the Dental Team Dental Nurses Work within a Variety of Dental Environments and Provide Support to Dental Clinicians, Patients and the Dental Team: The range of duties performed by dental surgery nurses include; preparing and maintaining the dental clinic/ surgery; prevention of infection and cross infection.

Qualities of Dental Nurse

- a) A dental nurse is usually the patients' first contact on entering the dentist's surgery.
- b) People are often very nervous while visiting dentist and a dental nurse must be able to put the patient at ease
- c) Dental nurse needs good people skills.
- d) In the surgery a dental nurse needs to be able to work quickly and keep calm.
- e) As some of the chair-side work can be very precise,
- f) Dental nurse is expected to have a high degree of manual dexterity.

Dentist Nurse Ratio: The ideal should be 1:1, With 25,000 graduate dentists passing out each year and a vast pool of registered dentists, There is huge scope for those who seek to make a career as a dental nurse.

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