

Original Article

MOTIVATIONS FOR PURSUING A CAREER AS A DENTAL SURGEON

Nabhira Aftabi Binte Islam¹, Nasir Uddin²

ABSTRACT

Background: The socioeconomic, political, and societal growth affects the healthcare workforce, which is seen as "vital" for health systems. In Bangladesh, over 80% of the population has one or more oral and dental diseases. This study aims to find out the motivation to become a dental surgeon choose as a career choice.

Methods: This was a descriptive type of cross-sectional survey that was conducted to find out the main reason for wanting to be a dental doctor as a profession, at a selected single-center dental unit in Dhaka city. Semi-structured questionnaires were developed and delivered to the respondent. A total of 78 respondents were selected purposively from the old and new batches of 1st year BDS students. The survey was conducted from 3rd February to 1st July 2022 at Marks Medical College Dental Unit, Mirpur-14, Dhaka with consent from the principal of the institution.

Results: In this study, 80.77% of respondents were female, with 51% from Dhaka, Bangladesh, and 27% from the periphery. Parents' educational backgrounds varied, with 25.6% of fathers and 11.5% of mothers holding post-graduate degrees. Notably, 75.6% of respondents did not secure a spot at a Government University. Logistic binary regression indicated that females were three times more likely to express interest in becoming doctors than males ($p < 0.001$). Reasons for pursuing a BDS course included fulfilling parental dreams (53.8%), and 20.5% found it more cost-effective and with a shorter duration than MBBS.

Conclusion: Every person has an aim in life. But sometimes they have been forced to do another thing that they do not want to do. So, parents should understand their children's desires. Dentistry is a challenging profession. So, those who will become dental surgeons in the future have to take all responsibilities for the patient's well-being. It's necessary to be passionate about their profession.

JOPSOM 2024; 43(1): 46-49

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3329/jopsom.v43i1.82426>

Key Words: Dental surgeon, career, choice, MBBS, BDS.

1. Assistant Professor, Dental Public Health Department, Marks Medical College (Dental Unit), Mirpur-14, Dhaka
2. Ex. Principal, Marks Medical College & Dental Unit, Mirpur- 14, Dhaka

Correspondence: Dr. Nabhira Aftabi Binte Islam. E-mail: nabhira22@bsmmu.edu.bd

INTRODUCTION

Dentistry is one of the earliest medical specialties, dating to the Indus Valley Civilization circa 7000 B.C.¹ Dentistry had become a distinct profession by 1700. The anchor book, "The Surgeon Dentist, a Treatise on Teeth," was written in 1723 by Pierre Fauchard, a French surgeon known as the "Father of Modern Dentistry," according to the American Dental Education Association. He is to be credited with the invention of dental fillings and the idea that sugar is to blame for tooth decay. From there, dentistry rooted itself as a serious medical career. In 1840, the first dental college, the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery opened and Alabama took the stage by creating the first dental practice a year later. In 1860 the American Dental Association (ADA)² was formed and the first university-linked dental school, Harvard University Dental School, was

founded in 1867. Since then, dentistry has established a strong foothold in healthcare.³

With the establishment of Dhaka Dental College on August 1961 undergraduate dental education started in Bangladesh. This rise in dental colleges has led to a higher number of dental graduates.⁴ Societal, political, and economic change impacts the healthcare workforce, which is recognized as 'critical' for health system.⁵ In Bangladesh, more than 80 percent of the population has at least one or more oral and dental diseases. The number of dentists is lower than the requirements in Bangladesh. In fact, 0.2 million natives have dentists. A general practitioner in a district sanatorium does oral health care in Bangladesh. Here, the dental unit is presented for negligible operations, periodontal and conservative handling like taking out of teeth, scaling, filling, etc.⁶ for the

need basis now Bangladesh has 10 Government and 26 privates dental colleges.⁷ Now it's a promising job but in general people of Bangladesh have some misconceptions regarding this for lack of knowledge.

METHODS

This descriptive type of cross-sectional survey was conducted to find out the main reason for wanting to be a dental doctor as a profession, at a selected dental unit in Dhaka city. A total of 78 respondents were selected purposively. Semi-structured questionnaires were developed and delivered to the respondent. After checking and editing, data were analyzed by using the SPSS-26 version of computer software per the objectives of the study and presented by tables and graphs and necessary descriptions for easy understanding and interpretation. The survey was conducted from 3rd February to 1st July 2022 on first-year BDS students

at Marks Medical College Dental Unit, Mirpur-14, Dhaka with consent from the institution's principal.

RESULTS

In this study distribution of the respondents (78), according to their sex (Figure 1), females were 80.77% and 19.23 % were male students. 51% of respondents were from Dhaka and 27% came from outside of Dhaka. 24.4% of respondents got a chance and 75.6% did not get a chance at Gov. University. Of the respondents who got a chance at Government University among them, 36.8% did not get admission because the University was far from Dhaka. 26.3% of respondents replied that the subjects were not so good, 31.6% mentioned that their family did not support them to study there and 5.3% were on the admission waiting list and 31.6% mentioned that their parents did not support them to study that university (Table 1).

Figure:1 Distribution of Respondents according to sex

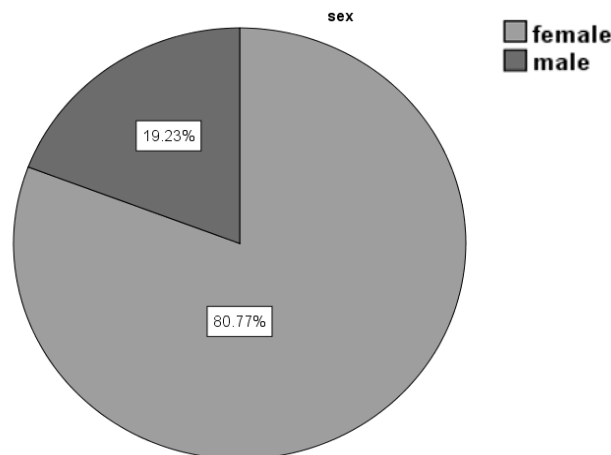


Table 1. Distribution of the respondent according to place of residence and educational background

Educational background of the parents, in (Table 2) respondents' fathers 25.6% and mothers 11.5% have post-graduation degrees. Graduation done by mothers of respondents 24.4% and fathers 55.1%.

Occupation of the respondent's fathers, 76.9% were service holders, 16.7% were businessmen and 15.4% mother of the respondents had done a job, and 83.3% were homemakers.

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents according to their parents' educational background and occupation

Educational background		
Attribute	Father's education	Mothers' education
	Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)
SSC	5 (6.4)	27 (34.6)
HSC	10 (12.8)	23 (29.5)
Graduation	43(55.1)	19 (24.4)
Post-graduation	20 (25.6)	9 (11.5)
Total	78 (100%)	78 (100%)

Parents occupation		
	Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)
Businessman	13 (16.7)	00
Work at Home	00	65 (83.3)
Service holder	60 (76.9)	12 (15.4)
Others	5 (6.4)	1 (1.3)
Total	78 (100%)	78(100%)

A few (18%) of respondents responded that becoming a doctor was their aim in life, whether it may be MBBS or BDS. 53.8% of respondents were admitted to the BDS course for the fulfillment of their parent's dream. A family member who works as a dentist inspired the choice of career mentioned

7.7% of respondents and 20.5% of participants said that the BDS course is less costly and short study duration than MBBS (Table 3). Logistic binary regression indicated that females were three times more likely to express interest in becoming doctors than males ($p=.00$).

Table 3. Reasons to become a dental surgeon as a profession

Attribute		Frequency
Aim in life to become a doctor (whatever it is, MBBS or BDS)		14 (18)
For parents' requirement		42 (53.8)
A family member who works as a dentist inspired the choice of career		6 (7.7)
Less costly and shorter study duration than MBBS		16 (20.5)
Total		78 (100%)
Logistic regression:		P- value
Male (Ref)		
Female		
Adjusted OR 95% (CI)		
Aim in life to become a doctor	.30 (1.20, 2.25)	.00

DISCUSSION

The distribution of the respondents, according to their sex, showed that 80.77% were females and 19.23% were males. Another study revealed that female dental students (80%) were more likely than male students (20%).⁸ The majority of the respondents (51%) were from Dhaka, while a smaller number were from other locations within the country. The educational background of the parents, reveals that 25.6% of the respondents' fathers and 11.5% of the mothers have post-graduation degrees. Graduation was completed by 24.4% of the respondents' mothers and 55.1% of the fathers. Regarding the occupation of the respondents' fathers, 76.9% were service holders and 16.7% were businessmen. As for the respondents' mothers, 15.4% had jobs while 83.3% were homemakers. Family background and the educational status of parents are crucial in guiding their children's futures.^{9,10} Parental influence affects children's career choices irrespective of gender or race.¹¹

Among the respondents, 24.4% had the chance to attend a government university. However, 36.8% of them couldn't secure admission due to the university's distance from Dhaka. One article reported an 11.74% dropout rate among students.¹² 26.3% of respondents replied that the subjects were

not so good, and 31.6% of respondents mentioned that their family did not support them to study there, indicating a lack of parental encouragement and potentially reflecting parental pressure to excel in other areas.¹³ And 5.3% were on the admission waiting list and Parents' influence on educational decisions is evident¹⁴, with 31.6% reporting a lack of parental support for studying at a particular university. A few (18%) of respondents responded that becoming a doctor was their aim in life, whether it be MBBS or BDS. One of the studies showed that female student, 61.3% of them choosing medicine.¹⁵ 53.8% of respondents were admitted to the BDS course for the fulfillment of their parent's dream. A family member who works as a dentist inspired the choice of career mentioned by 7.7% of respondents and in another study, it was found that 32% of students were inspired by individuals other than their relative.¹⁶ 20.5% of participants said that the BDS course is Less costly and shorter study duration than MBBS. Logistic binary regression indicated that females were three times more likely to express interest in becoming doctors than males ($p=.00$) whereas another study showed that women were more graduate in medicine than me.¹⁷

CONCLUSION

Giving life a purpose and meaning is what life is all about, is the aim of life. Undoubtedly, it involves discovering what matters most to a person. Making future judgments based on one's perception is crucial. Parents can mentor their kids, but they are not required to shape their future.

Competing interests: All the authors declared no competing interests.

Funding: This study did not receive any grants.

Acknowledgements: The authors are grateful to all the participants for their sincere participation.

REFERENCES

- Coppa A, Bondioli L, Cucina A, Frayer DW, Jarrige C, Jarrige JF, et al. Palaeontology: early Neolithic tradition of dentistry. *Nature*. 2006 Apr 6;440(7085):755–6.
- Founding of the American Dental Association [Internet]. [cited 2023 Jul 13]. Available from: <https://www.ada.org/resources/ada-library/dental-history/founding-of-the-american-dental-association>
- <https://www.healthcarestudies.com> [Internet]. [cited 2023 Jul 13]. Six Reasons To Become A Dentist. Available from: <https://www.healthcarestudies.com/articles/six-reasons-to-become-a-dentist>
- Admission in MBBS/BDS Courses in Government Approved Private Medical/ Dental College and Units [Internet]. [cited 2023 Jul 13]. Available from: <https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/en/home/1201-admission-in-mbbs-bds-courses-in-government-approved-private-medical-colleges>
- Mohan M, Ravindran T. Unemployment and vulnerable financial situation among recent dental graduates of Kerala, India - Results from a cross-sectional study. *J Glob Oral Health*. 2019 Mar 29;1:49–57.
- Assessment of Socio-Economic and Sexual Vulnerability of Tea Workers in Bangladesh | Dr Md Nazirul Islam Sarker - Academia.edu [Internet]. [cited 2023 Jul 13]. Available from: https://www.academia.edu/38051854/Assessment_of_Socio_Economic_and_Sexual_Vulnerability_of_Tea_Workers_in_Bangladesh
- BM&DC (info@bmdc.org.bd). Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council. [cited 2023 Jul 13]. BM&DC. Available from: <https://web.bmdc.org.bd/>
- youth4work.com [Internet]. [cited 2023 Jul 13]. Male vs. Female ratio – GDC- Government Dental College Mumbai. Available from: <https://www.university.youth4work.com/>
- Li Z, Qiu Z. How does family background affect children's educational achievement? Evidence from Contemporary China. *J Chin Sociol*. 2018 Oct 2;5(1):13.
- Đurišić M, Bunijevac M. Parental Involvement as a Important Factor for Successful Education. *Cent Educ Policy Stud J*. 2017 Sep 25;7(3):137–53.
- Nawabi S, Javed M. PARENTAL INFLUENCE ON CAREER CHOICE OF THEIR CHILDREN: LITERATURE REVIEW. *Int J Adv Res*. 2019 Mar 1;7:221–7.
- Hossain BM. Dropout at Tertiary Education in Bangladesh: Configurations and Determinants. 2016 Aug 1;
- Parental Pressure and Students Self-Efficacy 1 [Internet]. [cited 2023 Jul 16]. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339096621_Parental_Pressure_and_Students_Self-Efficacy_1
- Tickle L. In your parents' footsteps. *The Guardian* [Internet]. 2007 Jun 12 [cited 2023 Jul 16]; Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2007/jun/12/highereducation.students>
- Balouch Z, Alshammari AD, Khan FH, Ahmed RME, Ali SA, Ali A, et al. Reasons why Female Students Choose to Take Medicine as a Career. *J Educ Soc Behav Sci*. 2022 Mar 17;27–31.
- Thosar N, Pathak S, Ikhar A, Gupta S. Evaluation of responses of BDS students regarding factors motivating for joining the BDS Course: A questionnaire-based study. 2019 Jan 1;6:2–5.
- Firth-Cozens J. Effects of gender on performance in medicine. *BMJ*. 2008 Apr 5;336(7647):731–2.