

# INFLUENCE OF THE ORTHODONTIC TRAINING ON ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR OF THE RESIDENTS IN MANAGING DESERVING NEEDY PATIENTS

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To find out the influence of the postgraduate orthodontic education on attitudes and behavior of the residents in treating deserving needy patients.

**Materials & Methods:** This cross-sectional study was conducted to document the influence of the postgraduate orthodontic education on attitudes and behavior of the residents in treating deserving needy patients. A final study sample consisted of 40 postgraduate orthodontic residents of de' Montmorency College of Dentistry, Pakistan. Descriptive statistics were applied. Co-relational analyses with Pearson correlation coefficients were done.

**Results:** The majority of the orthodontic trainees felt well prepared to manage deserving needy patients (92%). Quality of the postgraduate orthodontic education correlated significantly with the professional attitudes and the behavior relating to providing clinical care to needy patients.

**Conclusion:** The future orthodontists are educated well and have positive professional attitudes and behavioral intentions about providing orthodontic care for deserving needy patients.

**Keywords:** Orthodontic; Trainees; plans; Motivations.

## INTRODUCTION

The deserving needy patients are reported to have a disproportionately high incidence of caries, periodontal issues other oral pathologies.<sup>1</sup> They are also likely to have limited access to general dental surgeons and other dentistry specialists such as orthodontists.<sup>2</sup> Also; these deserving needy patients are less likely to be covered by dental insurance plans.<sup>1</sup>

There is a high prevalence of orthodontic treatment need in the population of Pakistan. A study

conducted in de' Montmorency College of dentistry, Pakistan showed that according to the ICON index, a high number of patients were in great need of the treatment.<sup>3</sup> In another study conducted at de' Montmorency College of Dentistry, and Dental Section-Faisalabad Medical University, Pakistan, it was found that according to the dental component of IOTN index majority patients were in difficult grades.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, in another study conducted in two health districts of Punjab, Pakistan, it was found that according to the esthetic component of IOTN, a high number of subjects was in great need of treatment.<sup>5</sup> Given this high prevalence of orthodontic treatment need and the adverse effects of severe orthodontic conditions on an individual's life,<sup>6-9</sup> it is essential to increase access of needy patients to orthodontic

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centers.

It is also essential to educate dental undergraduates and postgraduate residents in such a way that they accept their moral responsibility of providing orthodontic care to needy patients.<sup>10</sup> Several studies have been done to investigate the influence of dental education on attitudes and behavior of the undergraduates in treating needy patients.<sup>11-15</sup> However, very few studies have been to investigate the influence of the postgraduate orthodontic education on attitudes and behavior of the residents in treating needy patients. Following this rationale, the objective of the present study was to find out the influence of the postgraduate orthodontic education on attitudes and behavior of the residents in treating deserving needy patients.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This cross-sectional study was conducted to record the influence of the postgraduate orthodontic education on attitudes and behavior of the residents in treating deserving needy patients. The questionnaire of the survey was adapted from the previously conceived survey in the Michigan United States with some modification to match Pakistani context.<sup>16</sup> The duration was from June 2018 to September 2018.

A final study sample consisted of 40 postgraduate orthodontic trainees. Data were collected and analyzed using the Excel program (Microsoft). Descriptive statistics were applied. Co-relational analyses with Pearson correlation coefficients were done using SPSS, version 19.0.

**RESULTS**

The response rate was 100%. A final study sample consisted of 40 postgraduate orthodontic trainees (Age 31.13±4.62 years) (Table1). Of the trainees, 28% were male, and 72% were females (Table 2).

The majority of the orthodontic trainees felt well prepared to manage deserving needy patients (92%). Quality of the postgraduate orthodontic education correlated significantly with the professional attitudes and the behavior relating to providing clinical care to deserving needy patients.

**DISCUSSION**

Several studies have been done to investigate the influence of dental education on attitudes and behavior of the undergraduates in treating deserving

**Table 1: Age distribution (N=40)**

	<b>N</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Age (years)</b>	Mean	31.13
	SD	4.62
	Minimum	25
	Maximum	35

**Table 2: Gender distribution (N=40)**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Frequency (%)</b>
Residents	100 %
Males	28 %
Females	72 %

needy patients.<sup>10-15</sup>TheObjective of the present study was to find out the influence of the postgraduate orthodontic education on attitudes and behavior of the residents in treating needy patients. An anonymous survey was conducted. The questionnaire was adopted from the previously conceived survey in the Michigan United States with some modification to match Pakistani context.<sup>16</sup> The trainees were assured that the findings on individual’s residents would not be shared with anyone.

In the present study, a final study sample consisted of 40 postgraduate orthodontic trainees. Of the trainees, 28% were male, and 72% were females. The gender distribution showed that increasing numbers of female postgraduate trainees are inducting in orthodontic training compared to the numbers of males. Results are in agreement with a study conducted in United States.<sup>16</sup>

In the present study, the majority of the orthodontic trainees felt well prepared to manage needy patients (92%). In the present study, results showed that the quality of the postgraduate orthodontic education correlated significantly with the professional attitudes and the behavior relating to providing clinical care to deserving needy patients. It showed that postgraduate orthodontic education prepared them well to accept and treat deserving needy patients; this may also be because the orthodontic center in which study was conducted is public sector institute where majority patients, in any case, are poor and needy. Results are in agreement with a study conducted in United States.<sup>16</sup>

Thus it was found that the future orthodontists are educated well and have positive professional

attitudes and behavioral intentions about providing orthodontic care for deserving needy patients. Limitation of the current study is that it is focused on one dental specialty, i.e. orthodontics. Further large-scale studies involving other dental specialties are suggested.

## CONCLUSION

Future orthodontists are educated well and have positive professional attitudes and behavioral intentions about providing orthodontic care for needy patients.

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