
PERCEPTION OF DENTISTRY AS A CAREER AMONG UNDERGRADUATE DENTAL STUDENTS - A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

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ABSTRACT:

Background:

Dentists occupy an important position in society as professional health care workers. Motives for selecting a career are complex, and a choice of dentistry as a career is not any exception. Motivations for selecting dentistry are studied in many countries. A range of reasons has been mentioned including status and security, the character of occupation, patient care and dealing with people.

Aim: to study the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students.

Materials and methods:

The sample size used for the study was 105. A self structured questionnaire was prepared and uploaded in Google forms. A questionnaire in Google forms was circulated among the sample study population and at the end of the survey, all the data were collected and the data was analysed by using the software IBM SPSS. Descriptive statistics were expressed by means of number, frequency, and percentage. Chi-square test was done to find the association between variables.

Result:

The present study reported that 31% of females reported their educational experience as poor and 62% of males reported as good. 31% of females consider themselves less creative and 62% of males consider themselves good.

Conclusion: The results presented here are the factors involved in the choice of dentistry as an occupation by dental students in india. This study points to the fact that there is a need for reviewing the process of admission for the students to dentistry to improve the level of satisfaction.

Keyword: Dentistry, Dental students, perception.

INTRODUCTION

Dentists occupy an important position in society as professional health care workers. Motives for choosing a career are complex, and a choice of dentistry as a career is no exception. Motivations for choosing dentistry have been studied in many countries (1). A range of reasons has been mentioned including status and security, the nature of occupation, patient care and working with people (2). Research into the motivation of those who choose dentistry as a career shows a wide range of motivational factors (3). The dominant motivated factor varies overtime, trying to understand current motivation to enter the health care workforce is critical to the health care system (2,4). Dentistry provides a wide range of career and business opportunities such as general practitioners and specialists (5). In indian the most recognized specialists are oral and maxillofacial surgery) (oral pathology, prosthodontics, orthodontics, community dentistry, Pedodontics, periodontic

and endodontics etc (6) (7). Students' motivation for choosing dentistry as a career in the health profession is of great interest for educators and the admission community particularly in the field of dentistry (8) Also assessing the extent of satisfaction among dental students provides a key barometer of the future of dental education in any country (9). There is a serious lack of authentic and valid data for assessment of dental students' motivation to enter and attitudes about the field of dentistry in India (10). The professional socialization of dentists begins with admission to dental school and continues through the entire study period of the students thus it may be assumed that the student period of the student (11). Thus, it may be assumed that students who already are pursuing dentistry compared with those who are on the verge of choosing it (12). The choice of a carrier is a critical decision because it has an obvious impact on the individual Future life pattern (11,13). At present, the number of people being admitted to dental college in India is decreasing as the rapid growth in the number of dentists tends to discourage some prospective candidates who feel that the increased competition would hurt their future earnings (12,14). The purpose of our study was to explore motivation factors that influenced students to choose dentistry as a profession and students' perception regarding the admission process and dental education. Our team has extensive knowledge and research experience that has translated into high quality publications (3) (2,4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12–14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26). The aim of the study is to study the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The survey was done with the help of a well structured questionnaire consisting of 10 questions. All questions were of yes/no type and it was carried out online through google forms. The participants who undertook this survey were dental students. The questionnaire consists of Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students. Total 100 responses of all participants including males and females were summed up and results were analysed using SPSS software. The present research has origins from the team of investigators where previous work was done on in vitro studies like. Descriptive analysis was performed to calculate frequencies of various categories. chi-square test was used to check the association and P value of <0.05 was said to be statistically significant.

RESULT

The study was conducted among undergraduate dental students, the responses were received through online surveys from 100 students and were represented in pie charts, correlation was also done. Figure 1 showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Wherein, the blue colour represents the age group between 18-20 (62%), green colour represents the age group between 21-24 (46%). Figure 2 showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Wherein, the blue colour represents females (46%), green colour represents male (70%). Figure 3 showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Whereas, the blue colour represents UG (85%), the beige colour represents yes (36%), green colour represents PG (31%). Figure 4 showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Whereas, the blue colour represents good (77%), the beige colour represents poor (31%), green colour represents fair (8%). Figure 5 showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Wherein, the blue colour represents no (33%), green colour represents yes (77%). Figure 6 showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Whereas, the blue colour represents good (77%), the beige colour represents bad (31%), green colour represents fair (8%). Figure 7 showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Wherein, the blue colour represents no (39%), green colour represents yes (77%). Figure 8 showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Wherein, the blue colour represents no 39(%), green colour represents rather less than I used to (77%). Figure 9 showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Wherein, the blue colour represents no (39%), green colour represents yes (77%). Figure 10 showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Wherein, the blue colour represents no (33.92%), green colour represents yes (66.38%). Figure 11 is a bar graph showing association between gender and no: of responses. X-axis represents no: of responses and Y-axis represents gender. 31% of females reported poor and 62% of males reported good. Chi square test was done and association was found to be statistically not significant. Chi square value is $65.52 > 0.05$ hence insignificant. Figure 12 is a bar graph showing association between gender and no of responses. X-axis represents no: of responses and Y-axis represents gender. 31% of females reported poor and 62% of males reported good. (26) Chi square test was done and association was found to be statistically not significant. Chi square value is $38.95 > 0.05$ hence insignificant. Figure 13 is a bar graph showing association between educational qualification and no: of responses. X-axis

represents no: of responses and Y-axis represents educational qualification. (25)77% of UG reported YES and 31% of PG reported no . Chi square test was done and association was found to be statistically not significant. Chi square value is $83.52 > 0.005$ hence insignificant

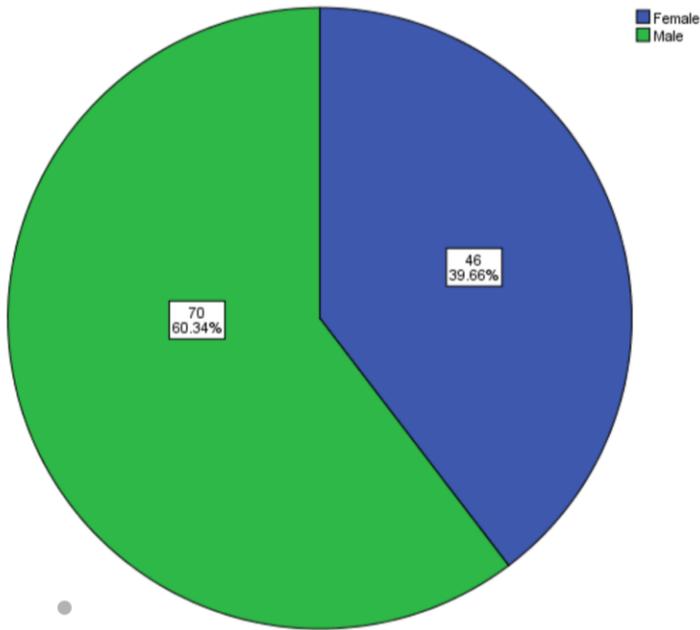


Figure1: Pie chart showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Whereas ,48% (blue) participants are female,70% (green) participants are male. Majority of the participants were male.

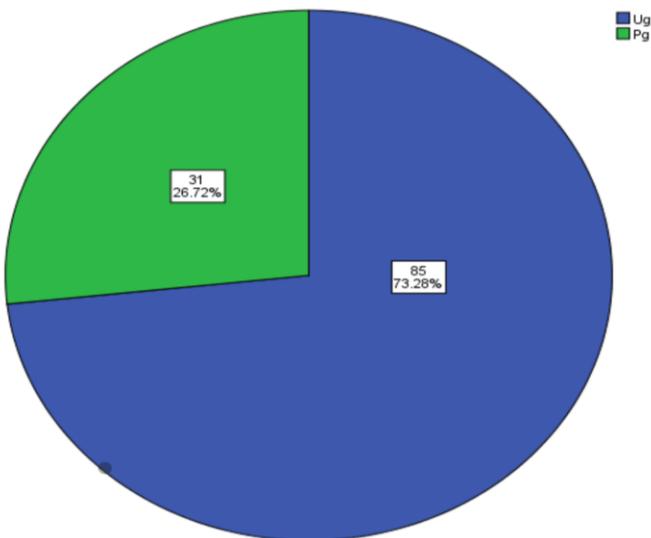


Figure2: Pie chart showing the percentage distribution about Comparison of tooth carving technique between various academic year students of dental college in chennai. Whereas ,85%(blue) participants are undergraduates,31%(green) participants are post graduates. Majority of the participants were undergraduates.

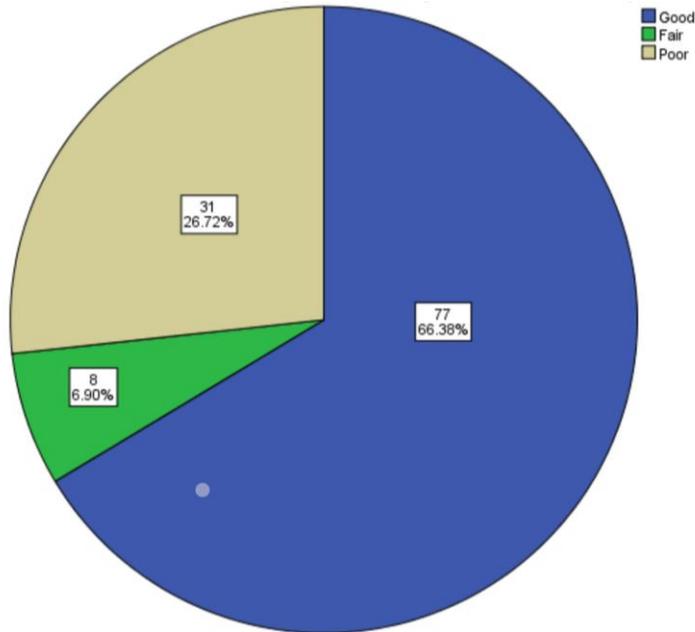


Figure 3: Pie chart showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Whereas, 77%(blue) participants described the educational experience as good , 31%(beige) participants described the educational experience as poor and 8%(green) participants described the educational experience as fair. Majority of the participants described the educational experience as good.

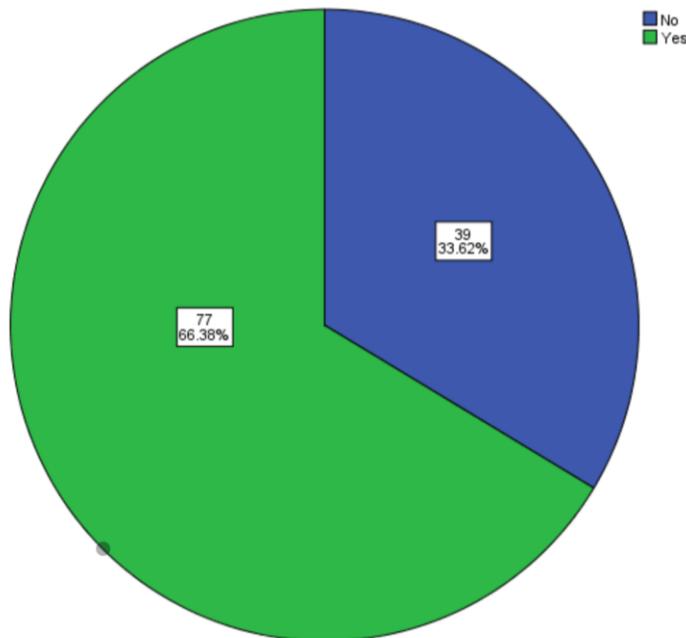


Figure 4: Pie chart showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Whereas, 77%(green) participants were happy with their performance, 39% (blue) participants were not happy with their performance Majority of the participants were happy with their performance

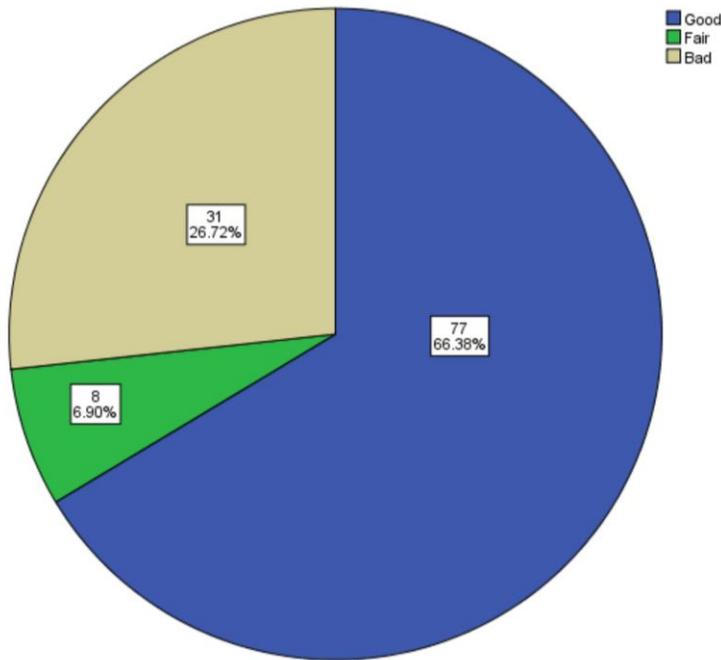


Figure 5: pie chart showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Whereas, 77%(blue) participants described themselves as good employee, 31%(beige) participants described themselves as bad employee, 8%(green) described themselves as a moderate employee. Majority of the participants described themselves as good employees.

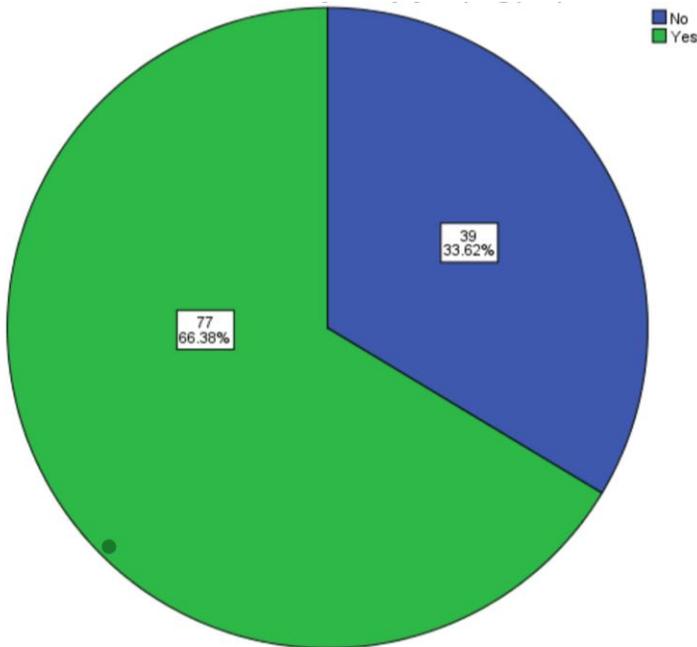


Figure 6: pie chart showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Whereas, 77%(green) participants enjoy helping people, 39%(blue) participants don't enjoy helping people. Majority of the participants enjoy helping people.

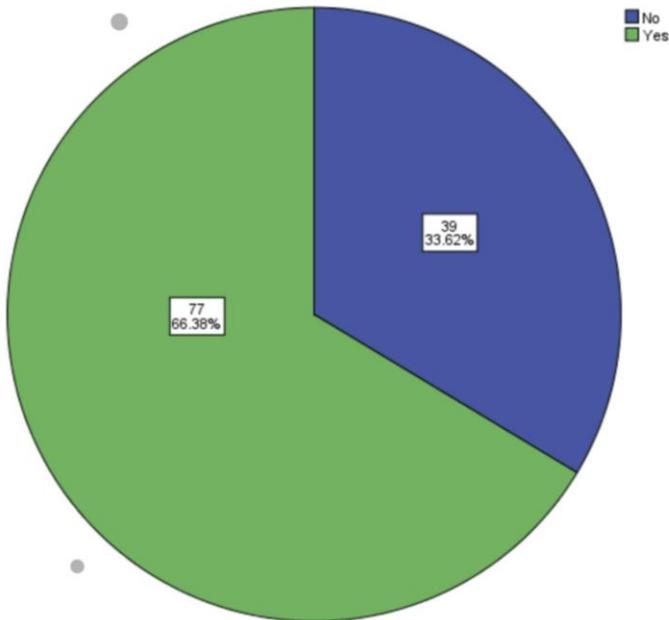


Figure 7: pie chart showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Whereas, 77% (green) participants consider themselves creative, 39% (blue) participants don't consider themselves as creative. Majority of the participants consider themselves as creative.

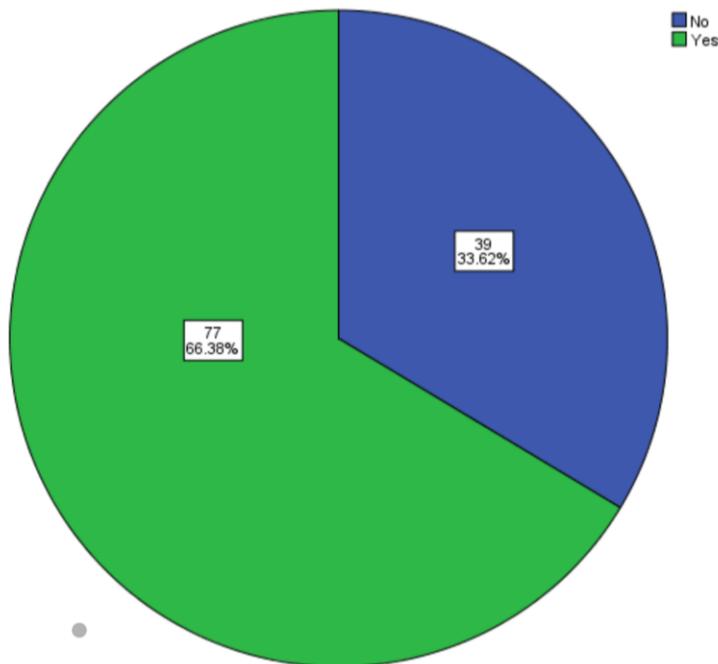


Figure 8: pie chart showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Whereas, 77% (green) participants had time for friends and family, 39% (blue) participants had time for friends and family. Majority of the participants had time for friends and family.

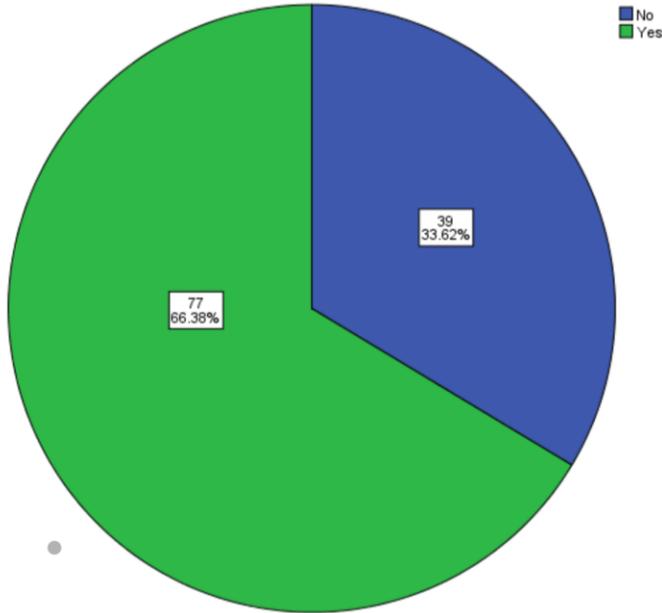


Figure 9: Pie chart showing the percentage distribution about the Perception of dentistry as a career among dental students in saveetha dental college. Whereas, 77%(green) participants regret taking dentistry as a career, 39%(blue) participants don't regret taking dentistry as a career. Majority of the participants regret taking dentistry as a career.

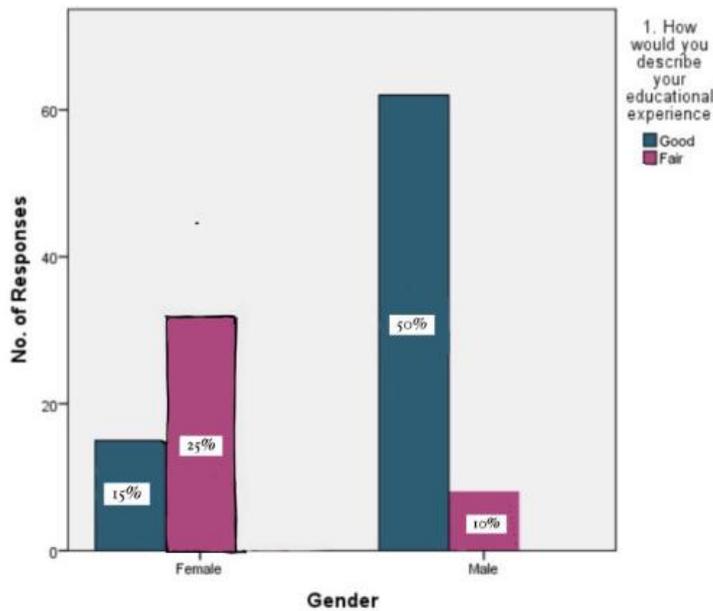


Figure 10: Bar graph showing association between gender and no. of response. X-axis represents gender and Y-axis represents percentage of response. 15% (blue) of females reported their educational experience as good, 25% (pink) of females reported their educational experience as poor and 50% (blue) of males reported their educational experience as good, 10% (pink) of males reported their educational experience as fair. Chi square test was done and association was found to be statistically not significant. Chi square value is $0.68 > 0.05$ hence statistically insignificant

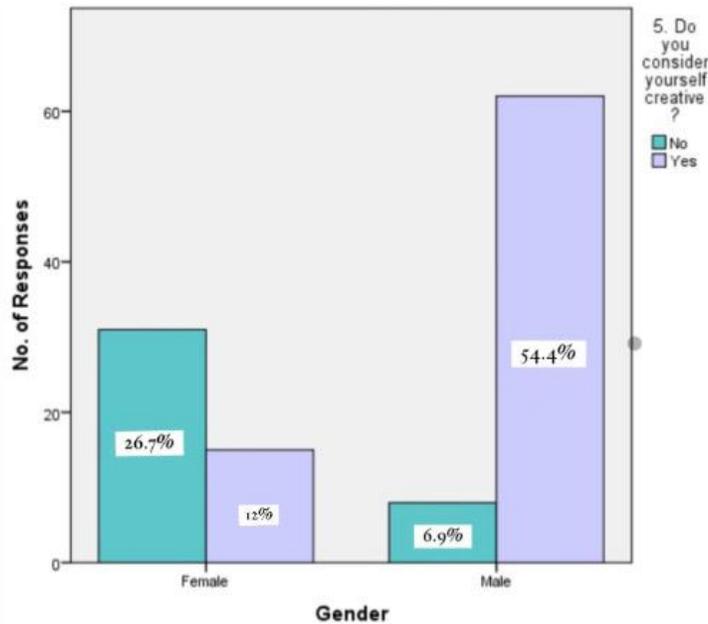


Figure 11: Bar graph showing association between gender and no: of response . X-axis represents gender and Y-axis represents percentage of response.12% (violet) of females consider themselves as creative,26.7% (blue) of females doesn't consider themselves as creative and 54.4% (blue) of males consider themselves as creative,6.9% (violet) of males doesn't consider themselves as creative. Chi square test was done and association was found to be statistically not significant. Chi square value is $1.22 > 0.05$ hence insignificant

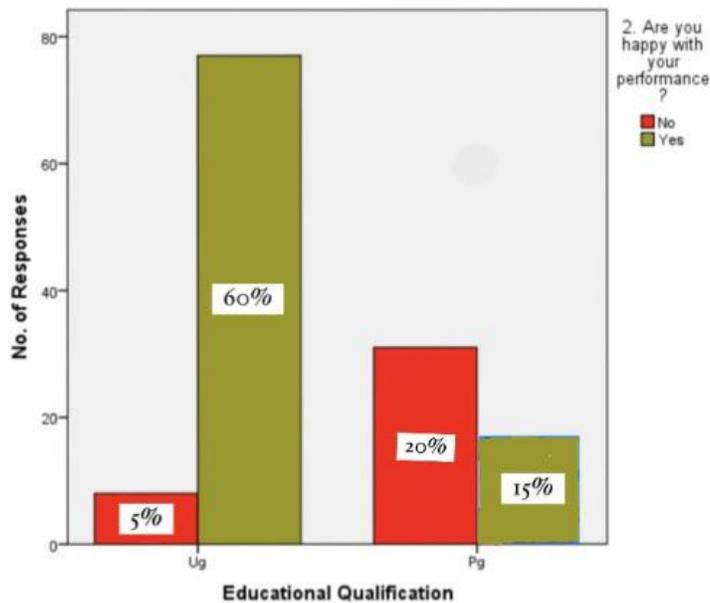


Figure 12: Bar graph showing association between gender and no: of response . X-axis represents gender and Y-axis represents percentage of response.15% (green) of females reported that they are happy with their performance ,20% (red) of females reported that they are not happy with their performance and60% (green) of males reported that they are happy with their performance and 5% (red) of females reported that they are not happy with their performance . Chi square test was done and association was found to be statistically not significant. Chi square value is $0.72 > 0.05$ hence insignificant.

DISCUSSION:

The results presented here are the first reported date regarding the factors involved in the choice of dentistry as a career by dental students. Dental students' motivation for pursuing dentistry as a career was found to be chiefly economic and professional. The students were also encouraged by the family for higher income, professional status, interpersonal motives, self employment, career,opportunities etc (27).

Around 54.4% of the study population are between the age group 18-20 & around 46.6% are between the age group 21-24. 60.3% are females and 39.7% are males . 73.3% are doing their UG and 26.7% are doing their PG. 60.4% describe their educational experience as good. 66.4% of the study population enjoy helping people. 67% have time for their friends and family. 63% have a calm experience at work.

When compared to a similar study,prestige (44%) and around 43% of dentists felt good helping people were motivating the factor in their career,51% describe their educational experience as good,77% have a calm experience at work.the current study showed that there is a change in the perception of dental students toward dentistry. (14)The preference for dentistry among high school and college accounts to 68.3% and 64.6% respectively.(28), nearly 5% of the students wanted to change their course. This is quite unfortunate given the time, resources and energy that had been invested by both the scholars and therefore the educators.(14,29)

These students may subsequently go to pursue other careers or cope with practice , which can end in a degree of job dissatisfaction and stress. However, we should go further by incorporating interactive sessions that might seek to understand the mindset of potential students.(13)). The limitations of this survey lies in the fact that cross-sectional survey was done among a restricted population (i.e) 100 dental students. Further research is needed on this topic by including the parents of the students and the school faculty who actually mouldup a students' ideas over choosing their career.

CONCLUSION

This study points to the fact that there is a sectional need of reviewing the process of admission for the students to dentistry to improve the level of satisfaction. There should be a widening in the scope of the requisites needed to garner dental admission in reputed colleges to pave way for students who have good hand skills and an aesthetic eye etc to gain an advantage.

AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

Jessly Daniel: Literature search, data collection analysis, manuscript drafting.

Dr. Dhanraj M: Aided in conception of the topic, has participated in the study design, statistical analysis and has supervised in preparation and final corrections of the manuscript.

Dr L. Keerthi Sasanka : Data verification, manuscript drafting, preparation of the manuscript.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declares that there was no conflict of interest in the present study

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