

DAYANANDA SAGAR COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES

(Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka) (Recognised by Dental Council of India, New Delhi)



DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY BASED TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Students of the third and final years are assigned field visits, which include visits to the slum, various schools, and peripheral health care centres for screening and health education, which includes demonstrating and training the brushing technique and conducting various fun filled activities like quizzes, puzzles, and role plays with the kids to raise awareness about oral hygiene and its importance.

Students also visit various slums to do the screening of patients and educate the people about various aspects of the importance of oral hygiene; in the process, they get to learn about various aspects of organising skills and also the statutory permissions required from the authorities to conduct such camps and health education programs, and also these activities impart in them a sense of social responsibility while improving their personal relationships and also enhancing teamwork.

Interns and postgraduates are posted in the satellite centres where they are exposed to patients, which instils in them self-confidence to run their own clinic and improves their communication skills with the patients. It also instils confidence to individually handle the patient on their own, unlike when they are students where they are under the guidance and umbrella of the staff.

Students are encouraged to give health talks in the community and for schoolchildren, which helps them overcome stage fright, boosts their confidence, and improves their communication skills.

Students participate in various programmes conducted by many NGO's and social organizations, which teach them the importance of their service to mankind and their roles and responsibilities as healthcare professionals. They are assigned radio talks to be delivered on various topics like oral cancer awareness, tobacco and its ill effects, etc.

Students also participate in various rallies on No Tobacco Day, National AIDS Day, and World Environment Day with various health education placards and hand-outs about educating and bringing awareness to the public.

Camps are organised in various locations, which enable the students to be exposed to diverse working conditions and different geographical situations. Few camps are conducted in tribal areas where training in reaching the people and convincing them to receive dental treatments is taught. These activities bring out a sense of compassion and a holistic approach in students to serve the community. A state of the-art, air-conditioned mobile van is available for basic treatment purposes in camps.

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