

Forensic odontology - Teaching scenario in India



With increase in crime rate and also with the number of homicides and suicides going up, it becomes equally important to identify the culprits, along with the measures to minimize these incidents. Expertise in identification of the persons in mass disasters helps in rendering greatest service to their families.


In our country, options to expose the dental students to various aspects of forensic odontology in the beginning years of their graduation are needed. Rather than depending on the government initiatives, the self-financing institutions are to be convinced to start forensic odontology laboratories. Teaching advanced techniques in the form of practicals, thus exposing the students to these techniques, and correlating these techniques to forensic odontology keeps

them motivated and helps them to update in this arena instead being left ignorant in the midst of technological advancements. In our country, the existing doctor patient ratio as such is less and the forensic odontologist population ratio is all the more minimal. We should strive to incorporate this subject as compulsory in the undergraduate curriculum thus bringing wider awareness among budding dental professionals and reinstating their role in the field of forensic odontology.

The existing method of teaching forensic odontology under the banner of oral pathology has to be expanded further, and not only the students but also the faculty members of various departments are to be encouraged to participate in this promising and responsible field.

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