



Strengthening of Dental Teaching in Online Teaching Era

Warm Greetings!

'Strength and Growth in any speciality come only through continuous effort and struggle by concerned subject experts and students.' - W. Edwards Deming

2021 year is a matter of pride for Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad Dental College & Hospital, Aligarh Muslim University, as the Institute completed 25th years of its establishment and celebrated Silver Jubilee foundation year on 16th December, 2021.

It give an great happiness to share that the '*University Journal of Dental Sciences*' has come a long way all these years, and where it stands today it speaks volumes of the Institute's achievements, both big and small. The journal has always been a medium not only to connect our fellow colleagues but also to encourage and educate the budding dentist

Thomas J. Watson rightly said '*If you want to achieve excellence, you can get there today.*' This is a right time for us to rejuvenate our mind, body, and soul to plan for a remarkable achievement(s) in dentistry as a whole in COVID-19 pandemic era. We need to use the opportunity to educate future generations of dental professionals in new ways, do research in a variety of new settings, that allow staying current with what goes on in the field.

The era of Corona virus disease-19 (COVID) is an important historical period from various points of view, from the world health, education to the huge cascade of socio-economic implications. Unlike many other careers, dentistry is an amalgamation of three fundamental components: theory, laboratory and clinical practice. Under this triage, a vast number of social programs, research projects and interdisciplinary learning experiences are intricately. Going

through the routine just day by day, without knowing where we're going, is not the most constructive way to work. [1] '*Change is the only constant thing in life*' so there is a constant need to continuously assess, review, upgrade and strengthen dental speciality training to keep upcoming dental students adapt and suit the future times.

Today, because of COVID-19 pandemic, migration from face-to face settings to concept of *e-learning* has gained substantial recognition. *E-learning* includes a variety of modalities and terms such as online learning (Zoom App®, Cisco WebEx meetings®, Jitsi®, Google classroom®, Google Meet®, Messenger video chat®, Skype® etc) mobile (m) learning (Whats App®), blended learning, computer assisted instructions, distance learning, *e-teaching*, simulation-based learning each one of these having their own operative differences but all part of the digital learning ecosystem. [2] In 2000, Stewart Hase & Chris Kenyon [3] propagated the word '*Heautagogy*' (self-determined learning) with a notion of making capable learners who can learn on their own. The *heautagogy* trusts students to bring the learning outcome with active mentoring. The teaching methods like flip-classroom, case, mentoring, mini-projects, short films, guided reading, and case study make innovative teaching options for exploring new-normal online teaching during COVID-19 pandemic.

Implementing *e-learning* strategies in dentistry for students is not a choice, but a process and all the involved sections need to take action and make decisions to transform the established paradigms and move forwards. It's the time to rethink about our curriculum and our way of delivering classes and practical knowledge to UGs & PGs in adequation with this new pandemic reality. Hence, it's the time to '*be innovative – break away from the tracks of thoughts that are holding you back. Consider different approaches to get closer to your goal.*'

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Received : 18 August 2021, **Published :** 31 August 2021

Access this article online	
Website: www.ujds.in	Quick Response Code 
DOI: https://doi.org/10.21276/ujds.2021.7.3.29	

How to cite this article: Verma P., (2021) Strengthening of Dental Teaching in Online Teaching Era, UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF DENTAL SCIENCES, 7(3).