

Pragmatic learning of Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry



An educational institute has two pillars namely the teachers and the students. A teacher's efforts to educate and inculcating clinical skills help students developing their human intelligence and skills that would be applicable in their future clinical practice. This is particularly invaluable in the field of medicine and dentistry where students apply learned human skills, on a suffering human, to reach appropriate diagnosis through thorough history taking, examinations, provisional diagnosis, investigations etc. Skill development, therefore, is a gradual process guided and trained by experienced and learned teachers in academics. Dentistry is the field where each tooth might have separate diagnosis, which in turn increases the consumption of time for accuracy of diagnosis.

All the trainee students should go through this hardship of manual and human brain intelligence which sooner or later develop keen desire for quicker and accurate solutions. This desire of a student will drive them to use mobile applications (app), Artificial Intelligence (AI) based tools and machines in various field of dentistry. Implementation of these tools, therefore, should be pragmatic. A pragmatic learner values knowledge, based on its usability for concrete solutions of a problem in clinics or researches. That means implicitly that an app or Ai is only useful if a learner can apply knowledge in the "REAL WORLD", which in case of dentistry is oral, dental or craniofacial tissues including their growth, development and diseases etc. as applicable on HUMAN. Thus, a pragmatic learner would be able to know limitations of AI based machines and tools that the of these tools on human in turn be modified if needed. A dentist should understand that an app or AI is to help and build a new skill to solve the complexity at various step to reach up to appropriate diagnosis, treatment plan, delivering the services and also manufacturing dental appliances, crowns and bridges etc.

Nonetheless, in the era of technology, where AI based tools are a click away, it becomes our great responsibility to make students familiar with this new skill as an adjunct which will equip them with recent developments and clinical applications once they leave the institute. An app or AI assistance therefore, should be a tangible asset, able to improve quality care, increase efficiency, empower and enable patients, help research or increase sustain ability. The role of an education institute, therefore, to make students be at commanding end and not the artificial skills.

We can hope that our highest national governing body, Dental Council of India would develop and frame the whole dental education to accompany the introduction of App or AI solutions by implementing digital literacy in the future dental syllabus and workforce.


"Be equipped with AI solutions in a Pragmatic Manner"

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