

INNOVATIONS IN DENTAL EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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한국에 있어서의 齒科敎育改革¹⁾

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▶ 국문초록 ◀

要旨 : 大部分의 경우 齒科大學의 敎授들은 敎育者가 되기 위해서 齒科大學을 선택한 것이 아니었다고 본다. 著者の 경우도 그러했듯이..... 그러나 어찌하다가 助敎授가 되고 敎授가 되고 學長職까지도 맡게 된다.

日就月將하는 우리 周邊의 狀況의 變化와 發展에 발을 맞추기 위해서라도 韓國의 齒科醫學敎育界에 있어 改革의 바람을 일으켜야 되겠다고 생각되어 우리 齒科敎育界의 過去와 現在를 概觀하고, 나아가서 앞으로의 齒科敎育改革에 대한 必要性和 小考를 소개하는 바이다.

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to emphasize the innovations needed in dental education in the Republic of Korea, the writer shall briefly review the past and current conditions in the dental field.

The privately-run Kyungseong Dental School was started in 1922 by a Japanese dentist in Seoul. Until the end of the Second World War, it was the only dental institute in the country.

In those days, dental educational technology was based mostly on Japanese and German models. This was also the situation in the medical field.

After the withdrawal of the Japanese dental faculty members in 1945, Korean dentists ran the school in close cooperation with the American military government. American ways of teaching and thinking prevailed on the campus then.

Some textbooks, dental materials and equipments were provided by an American dental advisor. If the Korean war had not broken out in 1950, the pace of development of dental education in the country could have been stepped up more readily.

1) 本論文의 要旨는 1977. 12. 5~9 마닐라에서 W.H.O. 주최로 열렸던 "Working Group on Educational Strategies" 主題의 Workshop에 제출 발표되었음. 文獻 : WHO WPR/HMD/77.4

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Late in 1967 a second dental school was established, the Kyunghj Dental College. This was followed by the third one in 1968, the Yonsei Dental College.

Six years later in 1974, two more dental colleges were opened, the Kyungbuk Dental College in Taegu city and the Chosun Dental College in Kwangju city, thus increasing the number of dental colleges to five.

The total number of freshmen students of the five colleges is 340 distributed as follows: Seoul National University, College of Dentistry (SNU), 100; Kyunghi, 80; Yonsei, 60; Kyungbuk, 40; Chosun, 60. The total number of full-time teachers is 90: SNU, 53; Kyunghi, 12; Yonsei, 14; Kyungbuk, 2; Chosun, 9.

The ratio of dentists to the population this year is 2,838 to 35,000,000 or approximately 1 to 12,300.

2. CHANGES OR INNOVATIONS BEING INTRODUCED AND THE RATIONALE BEHIND THEM

As the writer mentioned earlier, the number of faculty members and students in dental schools has been increasing considerably. Despite the phenomenal growth in size and function however, the essential features of dental education have remained largely unchanged.

Change in the academic community particularly in the dental field is often painfully slow, whereas social and economic change is revolutionary.

The writer was lucky to be able to participate to the two week dental workshop which was held in Sydney in February 1976. The workshop prompted him to initiate the Seoul teacher retraining workshop which was held in December last year. Twenty-eight professors from the five dental colleges participated in the workshop which was the first national dental faculty member's gathering in the country.

Everybody enjoyed the workshop as they became aware of the various educational principles, techniques, skills and methods of evaluation, etc. Because of the limited size of the class, only 28 members had to be selected. The rest of the teachers have been expecting another workshop to be held.

3. FACTORS WHICH HAVE INFLUENCED THE CHOICE OF STRATEGIES

The timing for promoting innovations in the dental education was good. The national teacher training center (NTTC) in Seoul had already been active though its operation was largely limited to the medical field.

In order to catch up with medical education, the dental field had to introduce innovations.

The year 1976 was at the height of the ten-year academic plan of the Seoul National University.

The international symposium on innovation in higher education was held in 1972. Since then the Korean Ministry of Education and many universities have been anxious to try innovations in Korean educational system.

4. FACTORS WHICH HAVE FACILITATED PROGRESS

- (1) Most of the deans and staff members were cooperative in holding a dental workshop;
- (2) The Sydney dental workshop encouraged the writer to be a pioneer in organizing the workshop in Seoul;
- (3) The president of Seoul National University, Dr. C. J. Yoon, fully encouraged and supported the holding of the workshop;
- (4) NTTC and RTTC staff enthusiastically cooperated in the workshop as if it was their own workshop;
- (5) The Korean Dental Association, the Seoul Dental Association and manufacturers extended financial support;
- (6) The academic dean of Seoul National University, College of Dentistry, Dr. M. K. Kim, made every effort in the preparation to ensure success.

5. FACTORS WHICH HAVE HINDERED PROGRESS

- (1) Most dental people in the beginning thought that the NTTC was only for medical professionals;
- (2) Difficulties in financing;
- (3) As anywhere else the traditional spirit of independence is strong among Korean institutions so that cooperation in dental education becomes a basic problem;
- (4) Difficulties in language;
- (5) Lack of core members.

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