



राष्ट्रीय दंत चिकित्सा आयोग
National Dental Commission
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
भारत सरकार
Government of India

F. No. NDC/UGPG-DEB/2026/M-288

Date: 06.05.2026

To

The Principals of Dental Colleges

Sub: Request to provide inputs regarding reforming BDS and MDS Curricula in India

Dear Sir/Madam,

The National Dental Commission, through its Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Dental Education Board (UG-PG DEB), is undertaking a consultative process to reform the BDS and MDS curricula in India, aligning dental education with national health priorities, evolving healthcare systems, and global standards.

Recognizing that meaningful curriculum reform requires broad-based participation, this consultation seeks to engage key stakeholders, including Principals of Dental Colleges. We would request to consult with your academic group/ faculty/Heads of Departments in your dental institution and share the responses.

The consultation process emphasizes inclusiveness, evidence-based deliberation, and practical feasibility. Special focus is placed on:

- Strengthening competency-based education
- Enhancing clinical and community-based training
- Integrating research and emerging technologies
- Promoting inter professional collaboration within the healthcare system

The insights generated through this multi-stakeholder engagement will inform the development of robust and forward-looking curricular frameworks that uphold quality, equity, and excellence in dental education across the country.

We kindly request you to provide institutional inputs to the key questions given below.

Submission of Inputs:

Please share your responses at ugpgdeb@gmail.com. For any clarifications, you may contact **011-45611884**. Kindly submit your inputs by **30th May 2026**.

We look forward to your valuable guidance and continued collaboration.

Key Questions for Consultation

1. Duration of the BDS Program



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- What should be the ideal duration of the BDS course in India: 4 years, 4.5 years?
- 2. Compulsory Rotating Internship (CRI)
 - Is a one-year Compulsory Rotating Internship (CRI) essential for ensuring clinical competency and practice readiness?
 - If retained:
 - What structural and operational changes are required to improve its effectiveness (e.g., supervision, standardization, assessment, community postings)?
 - If discontinued:
 - Should the BDS program transition to a 5-year integrated comprehensive clinical training model (similar to DDS programs) without a separate internship?
 - How can clinical exposure and competency assurance be embedded within the program?
- 3. Structure of the Curriculum
 - What would be the ideal academic structure:
 - Semester-based system (continuous assessment, modular learning), or
 - Annual system (traditional, summative assessment-driven)?
 - How can the chosen structure support competency-based progression and flexibility in learning?
 - What are the major gaps and limitations in the current BDS and MDS training model, particularly in relation to clinical competence, community orientation, and employability?
 - Which proposed curriculum reforms are immediately implementable within your institution, and which would require phased implementation?
 - What is the infrastructure, clinical material (patient load), and faculty requirements necessary to effectively implement competency-based education and training?
 - What key institutional challenges do you anticipate during the transition to the revised curriculum (e.g., resource constraints, faculty preparedness, regulatory alignment)?



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- What strategies can be adopted at the institutional level to ensure smooth transition and change management, including faculty development and student adaptation?
- Is there a need for introduction of new or revised courses/programs in dentistry? If yes, please elaborate on:
 - Rationale and relevance
 - Expected competencies/outcomes
 - Feasibility within existing institutional frameworks
- How can institutions strengthen linkages with healthcare systems and community settings to enhance training relevance and service delivery?
- Any other comments

(Dr. Chandrashekar Janakiram)
President, UGPG-DEB
National Dental Commission

Copy to:

1. PS to Secretary, NDC
2. PS to Chairperson, NDC
3. PS to President & Members of all boards of NDC
4. Guard File.