

Key Indicator -7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

7.3.1 Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 500 words

Response:

Oral health services in India are affected by problems of availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability and accommodation of services. Majority of the Dentists tend to practice in urban and suburban areas ignoring poor rural population with greater treatment needs. These people need to travel far distances to get their dental needs fulfilled. Keeping these in mind Vananchal Dental College has established satellite dental clinics.

These clinics also help provide exposure to the rural dental practice for the students, generate employment opportunities for the alumni and job opportunity to the rural unemployed youth as supporting staff. Each satellite clinic is fully equipped and caters to the dental needs of over 40-50 people per day.

Every satellite clinic is equipped with 2 dental chairs, a qualified dental surgeon, a dental nurse and an attender. Basic primary and emergency dental care are provided at these centres on all working days.

On-site specialized dental care is provided by a visiting specialist on a weekly basis. Patients requiring comprehensive multi-disciplinary care are referred to our tertiary care centre where all provisions to render such care exist.

In order to create oral health awareness among the public, we interact and work in collaboration with village-level health workers like Anganwadi workers and Multi-purpose health workers (MPHWs). These health care workers are trained to identify common oral diseases in a given population and also to inform about the services provided at our centres. Both undergraduate and postgraduate students are deployed to work in association with these village-level workers to appraise the rural inhabitants regarding oral diseases and their prevention. Periodic meetings are held at all levels to resolve any issues encountered.

Taking advantage of digital technology, all the satellite clinics are equipped with internet, digital radiography facility. This ensures better connectivity of these centres with the tertiary care centre and allows the exchange of opinions with specialists. To update the knowledge of

working dentists and enhance their skills, continuing dental education programs are conducted regularly.

All these initiatives enhance the provision of high-quality dental health care and help to improve the oral health related quality of life of the rural population. This massive community reach program has become extremely popular and the number of patients utilizing the services in these clinics is steadily going up.

The College Hospital management always takes care for the patients coming in the emergencies. For such patients hospital schedule is ignored and doctors take up, treat and monitor the case even beyond the scheduled time of the hospital. Similarly, in the case of a child patient special arrangements for maids and toys have been made. In such cases the child patient is provided with the toys (according to his/her age), his /her mind set is brought to be instrument friendly and then treatment procedure is started. If required the services of maid are provided.