

Opinion of recently passed out dental graduates about the Bachelor of Dental Surgery program

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The faculty of Dental Sciences at University of Peradeniya is the only institute in Sri Lanka which offers an undergraduate degree program in dentistry leading to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree. Studies to assess opinions of Sri Lankan dental undergraduates and graduates about the dental course have not been conducted so far and therefore the present study was aimed at determining the opinions of recently passed out dental graduates about the overall course, curricula and facilities available during different academic years, differences in opinions based on sex, ethnicity and area of residence and relevance to general dental practice. This was a descriptive cross sectional study and participants were dental graduates of batches 2011/2012 and 2012/2013. Data was collected by means of a questionnaire administered through Google Form to the whole population which is with a size of 150. According to the results, the majority (85%) of the participants were satisfied with the overall BDS degree programme and with respect to the different academic years 99.2%, 96.7% and 98.3% were satisfied with the first, second, and final year programs respectively. But the extremely satisfied responses were less than those of satisfied responses for the overall course as well as for different academic years. There were no significant associations between overall satisfaction and sex, ethnicity and area of residence (statistical test used was chi square test and the P values are 0.625, 0.949, 1.000 respectively). Although extremely satisfied responses were less than the satisfied responses, a majority (96.7%) of the participants agreed that the BDS degree programme was relevant to general dental practice. It is concluded that a majority of the recently passed out dental graduates were satisfied with the BDS degree programme.

Key words: Opinion, BDS Degree, Dental Faculty, Recently passed out, Satisfied