

Editorial

Dear Friends in SAAPD!

I feel pleased to share with you the Inaugural issue of Journal of South Asian Association of Pediatric Dentistry. We aspire to become the scientific face of the Association and reflect the research and cases specific to the region. The Editorial team has put several months of hard work to bring this to you at the time of First conference of the society.

According to DeBoer (1991), Research is learning towards learning by doing science, rather than merely learning about science. But if we acknowledge, the recent times, the essence of scientific research has been constantly changing. It has been witnessed to lack the dogmas of portraying science in a true manner. The scenario has been quite similar in the field of Pediatric Dentistry as well in the South Asian region. Planning a well-structured research exploring the oral health as well as the general well being of children of South Asian Subcontinent is the need of the hour.

In recent times, Pediatric Dentistry has been witnessing an exponential rise in publications relating to oral health research. It has been evident that most of the papers do get cited thus increasing the number and impact of scientific research. But what if more is BAD? It has been a belief that quality of research has been on a toss amid such growth. Pediatric dentistry has been the centre of extensive research globally. However, developing countries like India and other South Asian countries have been facing challenges in establishing effective research and preventive measures. Countries in this region with huge population and limited resources require research in a meaningful manner. We do not have coherent research for the region on prevention of Dental caries, Gingivitis, developmental defects and traumatic injuries etc. However, research covering all such issues is literally questionable. As discussed before, pressure to publish has also been a major contributing factor to poor or inappropriate research. Moreover, inbuilt system issues such as lack of infrastructure, fund/ grants and support from respective governing bodies have been proven to be few of the hurdles that are omnipresent. Also, inadequate guidelines from our journals may also affect the quality of research. It has been found that majority of our researchers are ignorant about the basic principles of carrying out research and do not follow the set international guidelines by STROBE/ CONSORT/ PRISMA. Such lacunae exist mostly because of lack of training programs describing how to conduct a research or write a scientific publication in this region. It has been also observed that a number of clinical trials are planned addressing the oral health issues of children but fail to register under organizations such as CTRI etc.

Therefore, focusing on oral health issues with an accurate research methodology is imperative. Let us formulate our own guidelines and topics of interest addressing the priorities of our region to conduct a meaningful research, which will improve the mankind's ability to preserve and maintain the oral health.

All the best.

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Editor in Chief*