

Committed to Dental Excellence

25 April, 2018

Dr. Sabyasachi Saha
Secretary
Dental Council of India
Aiwan-E-Galib Marg, Kotla Road
New Delhi 110 002

Dear Dr Saha

Subject: Running unauthorized courses by unauthorized authorities/Institutions – Regarding

We are in receipt of your letter No.DE-110(186)(complaint)-2018/457 dated 12 April, 2018 on the captioned subject.

We are of the opinion that this communication is contrary to the provisions of the Dentists Act 1948, in particular, to the interests of the dental fraternity who seek professional advancement through upgrading skills and knowledge enhancement.

DCI's regulatory role

The regulatory role of DCI under Sec. 10, 10 A and 10 B is confined to ensuring that:

- the institutions provide basic dental education leading to BDS certification to help register a dentist with the appropriate authority to render quality dental services to the community
- the institutions provide specialised dental education at the postgraduate level in specific areas of dental science leading to an additional qualification or MDS certification
- the institutions grant recognized dental qualifications for enrolment as registered dentists in the appropriate State Dental Councils

The relevant Section 10 of the ACT deals with qualifications that are registrable. The DCI regulates only registrable degrees which are qualifications earned to facilitate provision of dental healthcare services. Regrettably, the Section concerned is not interpreted properly.

Outside DCI's jurisdiction

DCI's jurisdiction does not extend to educational programmes offered by institutions that focus on upgrading of skills and enhancement of knowledge consistent with changes in dental technology and technical procedures, as these are endeavours at professional advancement as an exercise in continuing dental education. These are additional skills to the qualifications of dental practitioners obtained from distinguished experts with scholarship and training. And from where these additional skills and knowledge are acquired by them is beyond the purview of DCI, as long as these are not 'recognised dental qualification' necessary for registration as a dental practitioner. Sections 51 and 52 have no relevance here.

We would like to submit here that this is not the correct interpretation of the sections as DCI is not empowered to curtail improvements in skills or enhancement of knowledge to further the competence

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and proficiency aimed at delivering quality services to the community, which is what we, as dentists, are expected to do.

Withdrawal of letter

The letter, referred to above, is not in good taste. It's expected to create a lot of confusion among the dental fraternity faced with the emerging need of keeping themselves abreast of the latest advancements in dental technology and technical procedures which pose a constant challenge to their proficiency. Where else will they be able to take refuge to revise their knowledge and skills except in these programmes being offered?

In the light of the above, you are requested to withdraw the letter under reference.

Reformulation of Dentists Act, 1948

While on the above, we may also submit here that the Dentists Act, 1948, framed over 70 years ago, is not in tune with the rapid changes being witnessed currently in dentistry globally and is not equipped to address the growing demands of dental education today. It's high time that the Dentists Act is reformulated to keep pace with the global changes in dental science.

As an important stakeholder of the dental profession, we will only be too glad to associate ourselves in contributing to amending the Act framed in the last century.

With regards,



Yours faithfully

Dr. Ashok Dhoble
Hon. Secretary General

Copy for information to: The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, (Deptt. Of Health – DE Section),
Govt. of India,

Nirman Bhava, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi

Copy to: The President, Dental Council of India, New Delhi
The Health Secretaries of all the States
The Directors of Medical Education of all the States
The Registrars of all the State Dental Councils