Abstract: Introduction: Values are guiding principles or standards of behaviour which are regarded desirable, important and held in high esteem by particular society in which a person lives.

Methodology: The study was conducted among 200 dental students, questionnaires were distributed to third, fourth BDS students and interns, PG’s during the working hours 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Results: The study was conducted among 200 students in which females are 70.5% whereas males are 29.5%. 68% of students agree that there is need of moral values in modern era.

Conclusion: Youth can be the agents of social change by accepting to live by moral quotes and conduct.

Keywords: youth and moral values.

1. Introduction

Everyone knows that life is precious, that life is important. If life is so important, the values of life are even more important. Values are guiding principles or standards of behaviour which are regarded desirable, important and held in high esteem by particular society in which a person lives (1). Our values and morals are reflection of our spirituality, our character. They are what we hope to model our children and children around us, because children do watch us as they develop they don’t sense of right and wrong. Youth power is considered the driving force and power engine to a nation, if it moves in positive direction. In today’s scenario, people are lacking moral values. This study is to know how important are moral values in emerging society and the views of moral values among dental students. As ethics are important in dental practice the need for moral values are also equally important to run a dental practice.

Aim: The aim of study is to assess the importance of moral values in Modern era among dental students.

Objectives:
- To know the importance of moral values among dental students based on their age.
- To know the importance of moral values among dental students based on gender.
- To know the importance of moral values among dental students based on the year of study.

2. Methodology

A cross-sectional method using questionnaire was used to collect the data from dental students in Khammam. Permission was taken from the head of the department in Department of Public Health dentistry, questionnaire was explained and informed consent was given prior to the study. Questionnaires framed based on related articles are distributed among 20 students to know the mistakes.

All the third, fourth, interns and postgraduate students who are present during the day of the survey were included in the study. Students who are absent during the day of the survey were excluded.

The study was conducted among 200 dental students, questionnaires were distributed to third fourth BDS students and interns, PGS during the working during their working hours 9:00am to 4:00p.m. Questionnaire consists of personal data and 15 questions based on the dental students to assess importance of moral values. Statistical analysis was done using SPSS 25. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. Chi-square test was done to know the association among categorical variables.

3. Results

The study was conducted among 200 students in which females for majority accounting for 70.5% whereas males were 29.5%. 3rd year students who participated in the study are 16%, the 4th years are 15%, interns are 46%, post graduates are 23%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year of study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd year</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th year</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interns</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post graduates</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24% of the students strongly agree that there is need of moral values in modern era where as 68% of the students agree that there is need of moral values in modern era and 4% of the students strongly disagree to that. 4% of people disagree to that. The statistically significant difference observed was $P=0.007$. 

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17.5% of students answer that most critical role of moral education goes to family and friends, 46% of students answer that it goes to education system, 14.5% of students answered that it goes to Society, 22% of students answered that it goes to media. The statistically significant difference observed was P=0.019.

25% of students answered that morality and humanity is more important to them while choosing, 56% of students answered that religion is more important to them while choosing, 19% of the students answered that their own set rules are important while choosing. The statistically significant difference observed was P=0.016.

12.5 percent of students answered that heredity is the most effective reason for moral values, 24% of students answered that habit is most effective reason for moral values, 27.5% of students answered that environment is most effective reason for moral values, 36% of students answered that all the above factors are most effective reasons for moral values. The statistically significant difference observed was P=0.039.

4. Discussion

The present study was conducted to know the importance of moral values in emerging society. Most of the participants of study are females, out of 200, 141 are females, 59 are males. In the present study 45.5 percent of the study participants feel that yes youth are lacking moral values these days, 20.5% say no to that.

48% of study participants get motivated by moral values; 68% of the study participants believe that man is a creator of morality.

46% of study participants say that most difficult role of moral education goes to education system.

The responsibility values is among the most important values to be embedded in student. Kohlberg’s theory, Fried theory and Piaget’s theory have stated that besides parents, children themselves will understand the moral values by associating with people around them in their daily life. Teachers are the one who meet the students most often besides parents. So the teachers have responsibility to nurture moral values to students.

5. Conclusion

It is considered that youth power is driving force of a nation. Knowledge without moral values is not only useless but is dangerous too for the society. Today we have entered into the 21st century and our country is somewhere lost under the influence of western culture. The basic responsibility of our education system is to protect our culture and values by originating the seeds of culture. To uphold moral values youth must be disciplined and resist immoral behaviour. youth can be the Agents of social change by accepting to live by moral quotes and conduct.

References