

## Too Many Graduate Dentists in Saudi Arabia- A Looming Problem?

**Durgesh Bailoor\***

*Faculty of Dentistry, University of Taif, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

**\*Corresponding Author:** Durgesh Bailoor, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Taif, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**Received:** February 26, 2020; **Published:** March 09, 2020

Saudi Arabia is a kingdom known for excellent medical and dental care of its population. There are high quality government hospitals and equally good number of private institutions which care for the medical and dental needs of the population. A reasonable number of universities both Government and Private were licensed and number of dentists were trained in last two decades.

Last year, in a shocking incident, a jobless Saudi dentist filmed himself burning his dentistry certificate outside the Civil Service Ministry building in Hafr Al-Batin city because he could not find a government job [1].

In response to such problems arising, the Ministry of Labor and Social development has given a directive that dentists from abroad should not be recruited. Some exceptions may be made for senior specialists who may help in creating more specialist among the Saudi Nationals, after all they have to run the health system in the long run.

One of the doctors opined that while, some male colleagues got jobs because they were prepared to go to remote rural places, to escape unemployment, this solution was not possible for females, who were not allowed by their families to leave their home towns for employment.

Amongst the Graduate dentists who are registered, the number of female dentists is significantly higher than their male counterparts (79.71% vs. 64.80%;  $P < 0.001$ ). and only 22.08% of the dentists working in Saudi kingdom were nationals [2].

Abdulaziz M., *et al.* [2] further observed the more than 80% of the Saudi dentists are working in the regions of Riyadh, Makkah, and Eastern province and here approximately 66% of the Saudi dentists employed in the public health sector in contrast to only 20.46% of the expatriate dentists ( $P < 0.001$ ).

Another positive aspect of this problem is, that Saudi Arabia is emerging as a center for dental tourism, with specialized care like smile design and implantology being delivered at a very quality of work at reasonable prices as compared with other GCC countries [3].

With the rising unemployment rate among Saudi dentists, the governmental bodies should come up with a policy to gradually but carefully replace the non-Saudi dentists in both public and private sectors with Saudi dentists.

### **Bibliography**

1. Recruitment of dentists from abroad halted. Arab News (2020).
2. Abdulaziz M., *et al.* "The characteristics and distribution of dentist workforce in Saudi Arabia: A descriptive cross-sectional study". *Saudi Pharmaceutical Journal* 25.8 (2017): 1208-1216.
3. Meetu Bhasin. "Saudi Arabia is gradually emerging as a dental tourism hub". Middle East Forbes (2018).

**Volume 19 Issue 4 April 2020**

**©All rights reserved by Durgesh Bailoor.**