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**A Survey to Compare the Success and Trends Followed between the Private Practice of Prosthodontists and Non-Prosthodontists in Northern and Eastern States of India**

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### INTRODUCTION

Prosthodontics represents a highly developed body of knowledge and skills that spans multiple disciplines. As stated by Elwood H. Stade<sup>1</sup> in his study that clinical studies appear in the journals to provide information of treatment successes and failures. Little is found, however, that addresses the financial rewards or the typical practice profiles of successful prosthodontic practices. As stated by H.A.Young<sup>2</sup> in his study that successful prosthodontic practice must be predicated on success businesswise and professionally. This study aims to evaluate and compare the success and trends followed in private practice of prosthodontists versus non prosthodontist (MDS in a dental specialty except prosthodontics) in northern and eastern states of India. The purpose of this study is to update and present additional information on the private practice of prosthodontists and nonprosthodontists, related to prosthodontic treatment procedures only. As reported by Nash<sup>3</sup> et al, the American College of Prosthodontists sponsored and conducted surveys on the private practice of prosthodontists. Starting in the year 2002, the ACP has sponsored surveys of prosthodontists practicing in the United States. Five surveys have been conducted: in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, and 2014. The first four surveys were conducted as mailed surveys, while the 2014 survey was conducted as an internet survey. In this study the conditions and characteristics of private practice by prosthodontists and non prosthodontist were reviewed and compared with the help of a Google form questionnaire. In their paper Vasantha Raju N<sup>4</sup> et al made an attempt to explore the potential advantages of web based survey tools for data collections and analysis. It also explains how web-based survey can be designed and developed for data collections using Google Forms. In this study several characteristics of practice were reviewed including age, gender, patient visits and financial conditions including revenues, wages, expenses, and net income from practice etc. Numerous authors have spoke about the adaptation of modern treatment tools and technology in private practice of dentists. As Nishihara et al<sup>5</sup> spoke about zirconia implants, Brecht<sup>7</sup> et al spoke about intraoral scanners with digital

milling technology etc. In this study a section of questions is included to cover the adoption of modern treatment protocols. In the studies by Kabil et al and Omar<sup>8,9</sup> et al they have emphasized about motivating factors influencing dental students in choosing the specialty of prosthodontics in post graduate programmes. The data and information from the survey can be used to assist with development of activities to enhance and encourage dentists to consider the specialty of prosthodontics as a profession. In a study by David W.Chambers<sup>10</sup>, it is suggested that dentists are among the top earners in the United States. However, the income stream is not uniform across dentists' careers. Virtually all dentists start their adult lives at an economic disadvantage, compared with their peers in other profession, because they must invest heavily in their careers. In this study, data regarding income and expenses in a private practice of prosthodontists compared to non prosthodontists is collected. It will help in better understanding of success of prosthodontists in private practice and the profession as a whole. It will help to better equip the prosthodontists to face the future challenges in private practice and motivate the dental students to opt prosthodontics as a specialty.

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