

“I have many plans for young dentists in India.”

INTERVIEW with Dr. Chandresh Shukla



Dr. Chandresh Shukla graduated from the College of Dental Sciences and Hospital Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India. He now practices at Peoples College of Dental Sciences and Research Center Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India.

AIM: Why did you study dentistry and what do you think of it today?

I remember when I was a child and visited my dentist many times due to my crowded teeth, and how I realized the miraculous effect on my profile after the treatment. That day the dentist became a person for me, who gives a good smile to the people. I decided to become a dentist to spread the smile in India and now I realize that I have chosen the right profession. In India, a doctor is considered to be equivalent to God so that helps me to do more for the people and help those in need. But nowadays, many dentists are unemployed and not in a good economic condition because the government is not making any policies. Our association is trying its level best for it. I hope we will reach that.

AIM: Where do you practice dentistry and what is special about dentistry in your country?

I practice it in Bhopal City, which is placed in the heart of India. Bhopal is the capital of its state and is quite developed but there are many uninformed people, because of which there is a higher intake of tobacco-based products, which has led to an increase of Oral Cancer. Males, females and even

kids use tobacco in many parts of the city and you will be surprised to know that Bhopal has the maximum number of oral cancer prevalence in Asia. As far as dentistry in India is concerned, the awareness for oral health care has increased, and people have started visiting the dentist frequently for the general check-up. Bhopal being a densely populated City, we get enough and various kind of cases to learn and practice. Dental services are also quite inexpensive here in Bhopal compared to other European countries.

AIM: Why do you love dentistry?

Well, dentistry is my passion. Here we can have lot of blessings from the patients with a good and satisfied professional life and we can help people by treating them and by eliminating their pain. I love it more when I can reach out to the people as a dentist through various Community Camps and awareness programs, which are unable to reach me or another dentist. Many people are dying because of oral cancer and if I can save their life then I don't think any profession can be above dentistry. We can do a lot of research and exciting work when patients realize the changes that satisfy me.

AIM: Are you specialized or planning to be? Why did you choose this field?

I have done my post-graduation in Orthodontics because my orthodontist was the person who inspired me to choose the field of dentistry. The best thing I like in orthodontics is that you can correct what nature has distorted. In our field we always have young patients who keep us young and updated. Also, a person's smile that I see after the full treatment gives me a kind of satisfaction that cannot be expressed in mere words.

AIM: What does Young Dentists Worldwide mean to you?

I don't think I can describe YDW in words, but yes, YDW has changed my life. I never thought I would be on this international platform and that I am here today, well, the credit goes to YDW. I joined only last year and the love I received from my colleagues at YDW was incredible. Only because of their support I was able to organize the 58th World Dental Congress in Delhi. I have many plans for young dentists in India and hope that with the support of YDW we will be able to implement them. We want to arrange voluntary projects and research projects with YDW.



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