

High Time to Introspect

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The field of dentistry is expanding with new instruments and techniques developing at a fast rate. It is impossible for any dentist/faculty to be a master in all the different areas. Dental conventions/meetings are a great way to get the information and practical experience directly from the masters in various fields. They also provide a platform for postgraduates to give presentations, which the Dental Council of India has made mandatory now.

When the primary focus shifts from attending presentations from experts in various fields to spending time in the trade exhibition/attending banquet, it defeats the whole purpose. When the dinner parties run late into the night, the morning schedule gets delayed by hours. Then the presenters are asked to compress their presentations to almost half the time. A lot of time had gone into preparing the presentations, and suddenly when they are given half the time, a difficult task is put before them. When the convention is attended by dentists/specialists in four digit numbers and you see the empty lecture halls being occupied by the audience in two digit numbers, it is a very pathetic scene. I have noticed in multiple instances that when an interesting lecture is going on, and the food is served in the adjacent hall, a good number of audience instantly rush to the food counters.

A presenter from abroad commented with agony, “huge amount of money has been spent on us to get us here, countless hours of hard work has been put in the presentation, they should utilize/listen at least for 4 hours. However, here, even 1 hours is being cut short to 40 min. I just cannot understand the logic.” We are all grown-ups and should realize these conventions are golden opportunities to learn and try to derive maximum advantage. We are considered the cream of society and does this behavior befit our stature?