

DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH , THE INDIAN SCENARIO :

The number of Dental Institutions in India as on today is 306.

The number of Dental Institutions offering Post Graduate courses in Public Health Dentistry is 60.

The total number of members in the Indian Association of Public Health Dentistry as on today is 1331.

Total membership of IAPHD : (Founder Members – 13, Life Members – 585, Student Members – 733)

Background : In the early 1990's, a small group of like-minded public health dentistry professionals shared a common dream of enhancing the discipline of Public health dentistry in India. They felt the need for providing a common platform for exchange of views and information and development of meaningful and effective preventive programs for the community. India is a developing country with multi religious, multi ethnic, multi linguistic communities where 70% of the population reside in rural areas but are being served by only 20% of the health care professionals. So there is a severe misdistribution of health care services, resources and infrastructure. Also, most of the health care facilities, including oral health, are oriented towards curative aspects than prevention or health promotion. This has resulted in a larger portion of the community, especially in the rural areas, being neglected. Hence there was an urgent need to address this problem. This need culminated in the formation of the INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH DENTISTRY ,with the aim of enhancing oral health of the Indian community through team efforts, in 1993.(Registration Number No.777/93-94).Started with only 24 members today the membership strength is 1331.

The 20th National conference of Indian Association of Public Health Dentistry is scheduled to take place at Manipal, Karnataka, India between the 20th – 22nd November 2015.

The incoming president for the duration 2016 and 2017, has promised to deliver the possible on :

- a. Oral health survey under the banner of IAPHD.
- b. International recognition.
- c. Oral health policy for Karnataka started.
- d. To meet policy makers.