



## Bridge to Everywhere

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In recent times NITI Ayog's recommendations to the present government for the implementation or introduction of "Bridge Course" in dentistry has triggered many debates among general physicians. Comments like bridge to nowhere were passed by IMA, on which I totally disagree upon.

Present health conditions of our nation is not to take proud on, The recent surveys from NITI Ayog report Healthy states Progressive India, the condition of the health status of our nation is mirrored. India having lot of commitment at international forums and the introduction of schemes like "Ayushman bharat", it becomes very essential for the govt. to build up the health infrastructure and create human resources (Doctors) to operate in the infrastructure. In this background NITI Ayog has recommended the "Bridge Course", Which in my view is effective and swift solution to tackle the problem of Doctor-Patients ratio.

According to NSSSO Data there are 5.9/10,000 Allopathic doctors, 4/10,000 AYUSH Doctors, 0.7/10,000 dentists which is a worst ratio. It is also alarming that 97% of dentist are concentrated in urban areas.

Dentistry is always an occupation that is underrated in our country. As Dentist I feel, we have same curriculam as the MBBS for first 3yrs and despit not allowed for allopathic practice and on the other side the AYUSH doctors having knowledge of allopathy are recruited in govt. and also prescribes the allopathic medicines which is worse situation of health in India. In recent days the news been published that dentist in Maharashtra was successful in delivering a baby of a patient in the train, this shows the potential of dentists in India.

If dentist requires little more expertise for general practice, there is a way forward for having a stipulated well organized course to mould and polish their skills and knowledge. This will also improve the doctor patient ration which is most required for

schemes by govt and commitment done by nation. Without making large investment of time and money in the health related academic institutions which train the personels, it can be the best course of action.

I think that without floccinaucinihilipilificating dentists, time has come to value the potential of medical systems in nation & work for the future of India in shortest way possible.

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