The Rise of Indian Orthodontics: A Historical Perspective

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ABSTRACT

This article presents the evolution of dentistry and in particular orthodontics, in India. We have come a long way since dental education was first introduced to us Indians, the wave of change brought about by the most esteemed and respectable pioneers of our profession, have led us to form a strong dental community in this world of tough competition. This article also presents the work of the great achievers of orthodontia, who have helped us raise the level of 'Indian Orthodontics' and have enabled us to soar to greater heights.

Keywords: Mythology, History, Dentistry, Colleges, Orthodontics, Pioneers.

INTRODUCTION

‘Heritages of the past are the seeds that bring forth the harvest of the future.’ The great Roman Orator Cicero was well aware of this saying when he quoted: ‘Not to know what has been transacted in former times is to continue always as a child. If no use is made of the labors of past ages, the world must remain in the infancy of knowledge’.

Dentistry – Ancient Art Modern Science.

Mythological Aspect to Dentistry

Lord Dhanvantari is known as the father of Ayurveda (Indian system of medicine), since he was the first divine incarnation to impart its wisdom among humans. He first appeared during the great churning of the cosmic ocean of milk (Samudra manthan) to deliver amrit (ambrosia, or Divine nectar) to the demigods. Outstanding authorities on Ayurveda, were also honored in ancient and medieval India with the honorific Dhanvantari. Thus, Dhanvantari refers not only to the progenitor of Ayurveda but is also associated with a rich medical tradition and a hierarchy in the history of medicine in India.

Another aspect to the origin of dentistry is also taken into consideration at Dantewada, a small town in Chhattisgarh, which has a statue of Danteshwari Devi (Goddess Parvati). It is believed that this place is called Dantewada as Goddess Parvati’s tooth broke off and fell here.1

Fig. 1: Karan donating his gold-filled tooth during the epic of Mahabharata

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Dentistry as portrayed in the epic of Mahabharata: Krishna in Mahabharata wanted to test the ‘danaveerata’ of dying Karan in the battle field of Kurukshetra disguised as Brahmin, Krishna asks for gold in donation and Karan proves his worth by donating his gold-filled tooth1 (Fig. 1).

Sushruta: The Ancient Clinician and Teacher Par Excellence-600 BC

Mehrgarh represents a highly developed civilization that existed in India (now in Pakistan) until around 9,000 years
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ago (Fig. 2). Much older than the sumer civilization, Mehrgarh is now seen as a precursor to Indus Valley Civilization. In what could be the earliest example of dentistry in the history of mankind, researchers at the University of Missouri—Columbia have discovered that 8,000 to 9,000 years ago dentists in ancient India had developed technology to drill teeth and remove decay. This was found on the biting surface of male molars. Ancient Indian Ayurvedic literature contains many interesting observations on dental diseases and their treatment. Sushruta, the ancient Indian sage is universally acknowledged as the first dental anatomist of the world. Dentistry was held to be of divine origin in India, as it was in much of the ancient world. Tradition dating from as early as 5,000 BC, has it that the Ashvins, twin sons of the Sun, imparted their holy knowledge to Indra, and Indra handed down the science of life to Dhanyantari, deity of medicine, who further imparted the light of truth to Sushruta. Sushruta, taught dentistry scientifically at Kashi, at around 600 AD. During that period, dentistry flourished scientifically all over. He also wrote the famous book ‘Sushruta Samhita’. Ancient medical literatures, such as the Ayurveda, Sushruta Samhita described treatments of diseases of the oral cavity and emphasized the importance of tongue hygiene (Fig. 3). The diet of the upper class was rich in fermentable carbohydrates including honey and sticky fruits, such as figs and dates. Consequently this group suffered a high incidence of caries (Fig. 5). There are numerous remedies for caries in Indian literature, Vaghbhta, a surgeon active at around 650 AD, advocated extraction of carious tooth with specially designed instruments, beaks of which were shaped like heads of animals (Fig. 6). More than two millennium ago Greek doctors were aware of Indian way of cleaning teeth and mouthwashes. Hippocrates in his treatises ‘on diseases of women’ has prescribed a recipe of an Indian mouthwash.

Unani (Greek) system developed in Middle East out of Arabs contacts with Greeco-Roman civilization and entered South Asia with successive waves of Muslim invasions-Unani system was popular by Mughal Emperors, particularly Akbar, (1556-1605). All such systems were also healer of dental problems, e.g. clove oil was used for pain in cavity and other herbs were used for reducing mouth swelling.

**Even Dislocation of the Jaws were Treated at that Time (Fig. 4)**

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**Fig. 2: Sushruta—the ancient Indian sage**

**Fig. 4: An Indian surgeon of the mid nineteenth century reduces the dislocation of the jaws**

**Fig. 3: Tongue scrapers were used in the ancient times to maintain hygiene**

**Fig. 5: A Mughal prince is served a dish of sweetmeats by a servant in this detail of the leaf from the album of Jahangir (c. 1590-1619)**
However, thereafter, for ages dentistry remained in darkness. Even in the Mughal period there was stagnation regarding dental awareness. Scientific dentistry was reintroduced in India in the 19th century by the Britishers. Biomedica or modern medicine was initially started in India for East India Company’s employee, and later on for officials of various British administrations. Medical officers were trained and mostly British doctors were invited from United Kingdom. The medical doctors expanded their private practice to public and in middle of 19th century the British Government established medical colleges in India to train South Asian doctors, who could supplement the practice of British physicians. Hospitals and dispensaries (clinics) were built at district level and in towns. The expansion process was slow till 1930. Dental care was available up to extraction of teeth at such Hospitals by medical men/doctor and assistant. In spite of this for long dentistry predominantly remained in the hands of the unqualified.1

‘If there is no dental education there is no orthodontics. The beginning of orthodontics cannot be considered unless we know the beginning of dental education in India’ as said by Dr HD Merchant. Therefore, we must look into the foundation and formation of dental education through the start of various dental institutes in India. During the 1930s there was no dentists act, no All India Dental Association and the number of dentists could be counted on the finger tips, most of them educated in England or America. The first private dental college was formed in Calcutta by Dr Rafiuddin Ahmed in 1920 by his own personal resources, followed by opening of other colleges.6

THE BEGINNING OF AN ERA

Evolution and Formation of Renowned Dental Colleges

Dr Rafiuddin Ahmed (1890-1965)—Father of Indian Dentistry (Fig. 7). Dr Rafiuddin Ahmed was born on December 24, 1890, in Bardhanpara, East Bengal, India. He graduated from Aligarh University in 1908. By the next year, he left for the United States. He enrolled in the University of Iowa School of Dentistry, earning his dental degree in 1915. In 1920, Dr Ahmed founded the first Dental College of India as well as of Asia, which was financed by starting the New York Soda Fountain in Calcutta. In 1925, Dr Ahmed established the Bengal Dental Association, which became the forerunner for the Indian Dental Association (organized in 1928). He served three terms as President of the Indian Dental Association from 1945 to 1948. He also established the Indian Dental Journal in 1925 and was its Editor until 1946.

Dr Ahmed helped to form the Bengal Dentists Act in 1939. This was the first dental governmental regulation in India and it became the model for the Indian Dental Act passed in 1948. Dr R Ahmed was the first elected President of the Indian Dental Council, serving from 1954 to 1958. Dr Ahmed was awarded a Fellowship in the International College of Dentists in 1947 and Fellowships in the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Pierre Fauchard Academy in 1949.6,7

The second dental college was started by late Dr MK Patel in 1927 in Karachi.5

The third dental college was started in Bombay as Nair Hospital Dental College in the year 1933, by the founders of Nair Hospital through the efforts of Dr VM Desai (Fig. 8). It is run by the MCGM (Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai) and is the only dental college in the world to be run by a municipal authority.7 At the time of non-cooperation movement started by Mahatma Gandhi in 1921, Maulana Shaukat Ali and Dhawan Chamanlal were motivating the students to join the exodus that was going on all over India to boycott government aided institution. They appealed to the students of the Grant Medical College to get out and start a new medical college on national lines. Within few months, this idea took a shape with opening of National Medical College at 2nd Victoria Cross Lane, Mazgaon. Later when Dr Nair donated two acres of land near Tardeo Bridge; then the college shifted to its present location and was named as BYL Nair Charitable Hospital and Topiwala National Medical College. In the year 1927, Dr AL Nair established a single chair dental clinic. Thus, a modest beginning was made for the dental college. One more chair was added in 1930. When this process was going on, Nair Hospital Dental College was taking shape in the mind of Dr VM Desai and finally it came into existence on the land earlier used as ‘horse stable’ in 1933. Year 1939, saw the establishment of first Department of Orthodontics of India, under the guidance of Dr HD Merchant.6 In the 1940s because of financial difficulties, it
Hospital Dental College was the first institute in India to start with MDS courses. In 1998, the college got affiliated to Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, a centralized university for all medical and dental colleges of Maharashtra.6,8,9

The first Government Dental College was started in 1934 at Lahore called de Montmorency Dental College. Initially the college provided only medical degree but later BDS course was also started. This course was based on syllabus laid down by the Royal College of England. In 1941 first ever MDS course started in this college. Government Dental College and Hospital, Mumbai is one of the oldest, pioneering institutes in the country known for its comprehensive dental education and care. It was established in 1942 and was then known as Sir CEM Dental College. Sir Currimbhoy Ibrahim (CEM) gave donation for the building and it was ready in 1928, however, it was only in 1942 that the college finally started. It was housed on the first floor of Grant medical college, Sir JJ group of hospitals, Byculla, Mumbai with just 6 dental chair units and gave the degree as Licence in Dental Science (LDSc).10

After partition students of the college and some of the staff members fanned out all over the country bearing the torch of dental education with them. Some of those respected doctors who contributed were as follows:

Dr CD Marshal Day who shifted to United States to become the Dean of Rochester Dental School.

Dr US Malik Principal of R Ahmed Dental College, Calcutta.

Dr KL Shourie, Principal of Government Dental College, Sir CEM Dental College, Bombay.

Major General SN Bhaskar, Director of Army Dental Corps US Army.10

A delegation from the Royal College of Surgeons. UK, under the chairmanship of Sir Bradlow and along with members of ministry of health UK visited India in 1949 and conveyed the recognition of Royal College of Surgeons UK to the three dental colleges left after the partition.7

The King’s George Medical College (KGMC) was formally opened in October 1911, the year when His Majesty King George V and Queen Mary visited India. The Dental Wing of KGMC started as a part of the ENT Department in 1949 with Dr B Sampat in charge. Dental education at the King George’s Medical College started initially as a Dentistry Wing of the Department of Surgery in 1949. In 1951, it became a separate Department of Dentistry in a new Dental Hospital with Professor TN Chawla as Head of Department who succeeded Dr B Sampat. The MDS course in orthodontics was introduced in January 1965. Professor Ram Nanda established the Postgraduate Department in 1965 and continued till 1972 and later on joined as Chairman, Department of Orthodontics at Dental Health Sciences Center at Oklahoma, USA in 1972.11

In 1980, the Department was upgraded to a separate Faculty of Dental Sciences with seven departments. Presently, KGMC is known as Chhatrapati Shahujji Maharaj Medical University. The dental university is the only one of its kind in India and one of only four dental universities in the world, It is worth mentioning that this Department is the only Orthodontic Center in India, which has exclusively rendered orthodontic treatment with edgewise technique for the last 45 years.12

In 1935, Dr H Venkata Rao, started the first dental college in Madras called the ‘Madras Dental College and Hospital’ but it folded up in 1942. A few years later during the early 40s, Dr HM Rao, a medical practitioner obtained the DDS qualification from the USA and started ‘The American Dental College’ at Madras. The institution was well-equipped and the course methodically organized. This institution was the only scientifically standardized school at that time and produced many successful and knowledgeable practitioners. This college unfortunately was shut down due to the untimely demise of its Principal, Dr HM Rao. In December 1949, the government by an order sanctioned the opening of a separate dental wing attached to Madras Medical College and Government General Hospital, Madras, for training candidates for the BDS course and recommended an intake of 15 students per year in the year 1953. While celebrating the silver jubilee of dental wing in 1978 a proposal was submitted which was examined by the government and an order was passed stating the separation of Dental Wing from the Madras Medical College to form an independent dental college, with independent budget from 3rd October 1979. Dr BP Rajan was appointed as the principal. It was affiliated to Madras University. Postgraduation course in Orthodontia was started by Dr JG Kannappan in 1977, followed by Dr S Rangachari.13,14

The Government Dental College (GDC) in Bangalore was started in the year 1958, in a small corner room of Victoria hospital. Initially the lectures were conducted at the Bangalore Medical College and the clinical facilities were made available at the Outpatient Department of Victoria Hospital with Dr VR Naidu as the Principal. Later Dr S Ramachandra, a Medical Officer at Krishnarajendra Hospital Mysore was deputed to Tufts University Dental School, USA to obtain DMD who took over as the full time principal of the college. The building construction completed in 1964 was inaugurated by the Union Health Minister Dr Sushila Nayar. The first Postgraduate course in Orthodontia was started in the year 1965.15

The Government Dental College, Trivandrum was started in the year 1959 as a wing of the medical college. Col NN Berry was the President of Dental Council at that time.4 The BDS degree was recognized by the DCI during 1962. In the
same year dental hygienists course was started which was first of its kind in India. Two years later dental technicians course was also started. Postgraduate education was started in 1966.

Department of Orthodontics in Government Dental College, Trivandrum was approved by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Scotland, as the examination center for M Orth RCS, MOS RCS Ed and Dip NB examination in the year 2000 under Dr Jyotinder Kumar.16

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is a premier medical college and teaching hospital based in New Delhi. The institute operates autonomously under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare India. It was established in 1956 by the Indian Parliament. This was in pursuance to the recommendations made by the Bhore Committee in 1946,17 and was built with a grant from the government of New Zealand. It was established in New Delhi after former Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru’s initial proposal to set up the institute in West Bengal was turned down by the Chief Minister of West Bengal Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. It was the vision of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the first Health Minister of India, to establish an institute of such nature in India. The Department of Dental Surgery was established in the year 1960. The first Postgraduate Program was started at AIIMS in the year 1986, in the Orthodontics Department of Dentistry, with Dr SS Sidhu as the Head of the Department. The Department of Dental Surgery was upgraded to the Center for Dental Education and Research (CDER) in 2003 which is now headed by Dr OP Kharbanda.18

Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) is one of the most prestigious medical and research institution of Asia. Located in Chandigarh, the PGIMER owes its inception to the vision of late Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon, the Chief Minister of Punjab and a distinguished medical educationist of the combined state of Punjab, alongside the support of the first Prime Minister of India, Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru. The institute started in 1962 and became an autonomous body under the Act of the Parliament of India in 1967 functioning under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Orthodontic unit started in 1974 and Postgraduation course in Orthodontics started in 1989 with Dr Ashok Utreja as the head of the department.19

The Manipal College of Dental Sciences (MCODS), Manipal, formerly known as the College of Dental Surgery, is the first self-financing dental college in the private sector of India. It was established in the year 1965. Dr Sunder J Vazirani nurtured the college during its teething stages. Academically, the College of Dental Surgery, Manipal was affiliated to the Mysore University (1965-1980) and then to the Mangalore University (1980-1993) before becoming a part of the Manipal University. Postgraduation course in Orthodontics started in 1990 with Dr Ashima Valiathan as the head of the department.20

Evolution of Dental Council of India: In the 1930, the Calcutta Dental Association and the Bombay presidency dental association was formed. Both these associations drafted Dentists Act for their own provinces but they were put away in the files by the respective governments and forgotten. In 1945, Dr SK Mazumdar traveled all over India with a missionary zeal for forming one dental association for whole of India. His aspirations were fulfilled as the popular ministry was formed in 1946. The same year All India Dental Association was also formed. It drafted the Dentists Act which was passed by the Parliament and became a law in 1948. With the passing of the Act, the Dental Council of India came into being and the practice of dentistry was regulated. It also drafted syllabus for BDS and MDS. With continuous efforts, new dental colleges were started.4

**Beginning of Orthodontics as a Speciality in India**

The beginning of orthodontics in India was made in 1935, as Dr HD Merchant gave the first series of lectures in Orthodontics at the Nair Hospital Dental College, Bombay. He is considered to be the ‘The Father of Indian Orthodontics’. The first Department of Orthodontics was properly established in 1939 in Nair Hospital Dental College under Dr HD Merchant. Nair Dental College was the only institute in India, where Orthodontics was taught as an independent subject from 1939, consisting of practicals, lectures and clinical work.4 In 1958, Dr Berry got the Government of India to give a grant to start PG courses in 5 to 6 subjects.19 Orthodontics was still in its infancy at that time, with emphasis mainly on removable appliances like active plates, expansion screws, oral screens and the inclined planes. Functional appliances like ‘Activator’ was also used. Fixed appliances used at that time was the ‘Edgewise appliance’ and ‘Tweed Philosophy’.14

The Indian Orthodontic Society started as a Study Group in Bombay, now Mumbai, way back in the year 1961. There were no office bearers, no fees, no constitution. Dr NH Parikh called regular scientific meetings and there used to be lectures.4 The IOS was formally established as the Indian Orthodontic Society on Friday the 15th October 1965. The late Dr HD Merchant was the Founder President for 3 years and Dr Naishadh Parikh the Founder Secretary and Treasurer for 8 years. The other Founder Members were Late Dr AB Modi, Dr Keki Mistry, Dr Mohandas Bhat, Late Dr Prem Prakash and Late Dr HS Shaikh. The Indian Orthodontic Society held its first conference in the year 1967 at New Delhi with a scientific session. The Journal of the Indian Orthodontic Society started by Dr HD Merchant as the first Editor in 1968.21

IOS office was inaugurated at Vellore on 12/4/1998 by Dr BP Rajan under the presidentship of Dr Asha Verma. At its headquarters in Vellore, the IOS established a library and the first dental museum in India in 1998. This is the first museum on Dentistry to be established in India. The library holds various books and journals donated by our eminent doctors.22

The IOS also established the IOS-Free Dental Specialty Centre on August 7, 1999, in Vellore. This center includes a free-dental clinic and health education hall, which was inaugurated by...
Dr T Samraj, Secretary IOS. Colgate Palmolive Ltd donated a new dental chair and unit with necessary equipment. The Indian Orthodontic Society has its own web site, www.iosonline.org, which was again inaugurated by Dr T Samraj.21,23

The Indian Board of Orthodontics, first dental specialty to establish a professional certifying board in India, was formed and the first specialty board examination was conducted on 29th September 1999 at Bangalore, inaugurated by Dr T Samraj. The first certification and convocation was held at Bangalore on October 2, 1999. Dr Vijay P Jayade was elected as the Founder Chairman of the Board and Dr K Jyothindra Kumar as the Founder Secretary-Treasurer.24 late Dr Prem Prakash, was the board’s first examiner.25 IBO is the first such board in the field of Dentistry in India and the third in the world. Dr T Samraj received Honorary Fellowship from the Indian Board of Orthodontics.26

Evolution of Cleft Surgery in India

The year 1955 is considered as the birth of plastic surgery in India. Sir Benjamin Rank, Professor of Plastic Surgery, University of Melbourne, was invited. He brought with him Dr John Tucker as his anesthetist. Some Indian plastic surgeons had some exposure in UK they were—Dr C Balakrishnan, Dr RN Sinha and Major Sukh. Dr Balakrishnan from Nagpur then went on to establish a major plastic surgical department at the Postgraduate Institute at Chandigarh and is credited with a new classification and a new technique of repairing a cleft lip. Dr C Balakrishnan was trained under Sir Benjamin Rank.

The Jerbai Wadia Hospital in Bombay is called the cradle of cleft surgery in Maharashtra, where Dr Arthur De Sa, Rustom Irani and Charles Pinto, all general-cum-pediatric surgeons were engaged in cleft surgery in a major way in the 1960s. In 1962, in the South, Dr Raman Nair, trained by Keisewetter in Philadelphia, pioneered the first pediatric surgical department in Trivandrum.

In the 1970s Dr HS Adenwalla established the Charles Pinto Center for Cleft Lip and Palate at the Jubilee Mission Medical College and Research Institute, Trichur with 40 beds entirely devoted to cleft care. Major funding comes from Smile Train. Oral health science center was inaugurated in PGIMER Chandigarh in 1995 by Dr Mannohman Singh. It provides an interdisciplinary cleft palate clinic (listed in American Cleft Palate Association Directory).

Ashok Utreja is presently Professor and Chairman, Unit of Orthodontics, and Head, Oral Health Sciences Center, PGIMER, Chandigarh.27

The first National Congress on cleft lip, cleft palate and orofacial anomalies was held on 24th September 1988 at Chennai. Dr JG Kannappan was the congress secretary.28

The first ever cleft lip and palate symposium was held at Manipal in 1998.29 In the year 2000, Smile Train came into the picture creating tremendous enthusiasm for comprehensive cleft care. Sixty Smile Train partner Centers cropped up all over India. Smile Train is responsible for the repair of over 40,000 cleft children in this country. A center of cleft excellence now stands at the Sri Ramachandra Medical Center in Madras, an infant department of 4 years’ standing which has achieved remarkable maturity mainly due to the dynamic administrative qualities of Dr Jyotsna Murthy.

The next landmark was the establishment of the Indian Society of cleft lip, palate and craniofacial anomalies by Dr Suresh Tambwekar in Mumbai in March 2002.

Dr Ashok Utreja is the first orthodontist to be elected President of the Indian Society of cleft lip, palate and craniofacial anomalies for the year 2004 to 2005.30

Other centers for cleft lip and palate are at AIIMS, headed by Dr OP Kharbanda, Guwahati comprehensive cleft center. Meenakshi Cleft Center at Meenakshi Ammal Dental College, Chennai, to name a few.

FIRST GENERATION ORTHODONTISTS—OUR VISIONARIES

Dr HariKrischan D Merchant, Father of Indian Orthodontics, IOS President (1965 to 1967)

We are indeed indebted to Dr HD Merchant, for being the first to show us the path on which we all walk (Fig. 9). He received his degree in dentistry (DMD) from Germany. Dr Korkhaus was his teacher and mentor. He returned to India and gave the first series of lectures in Orthodontics in 1935 at Nair Dental College. Dr HD Merchant was one of the most prominent figures of Nair Hospital Dental College and was the Founder of the Department of Orthodontics and stayed as the Professor and Head of Orthodontics Department at Nair Hospital Dental College from 1937 until his retirement in 1963. He was not only the Founder Member of Indian Dental Association but also was appointed as the President for three tenures. He was Convener of Dental Gold Panel (1962-1963). He was the Founder Member and first President of the Indian Orthodontic Society (1965-1968) and stayed as the Editor of the Journal of Indian Orthodontics Society for a long time and also the first editor of JIOS from 1968 to 1974. He was honored by Pierre Fauchard Academy as ‘Dentist of the year 1976’ for outstanding contribution to dental education in India, awarded for the first time in India. His main area of expertise was removable mechanotherapy.6

Dr Prem Prakash, IOS President (1967 to 1969)

Dr Prem Prakash received his BDS degree from De Montmorency Dental College, Lahore, Punjab University in 1947 (Fig. 10). He developed interest in orthodontics because of his instructor Dr Balraj Vacher at Lahore and Dr AS
Ghosh from Calcutta. After earning a scholarship from Government of India, he was sent to Tuft’s University for further studies. He attained his MS in Orthodontics from Tuft’s University, USA, in 1950 under Dr Margolis, Dr GreenStein and Dr Oren Oliver, he taught at Tuft’s for 3 years before returning to India, with a vision in 1953. He started his private practice at Lotus House, Marine Lines, Mumbai. He was the first orthodontist to start exclusive orthodontic practice in India. Dr Prem Prakash attended the first course of Begg Technique given by Dr Begg in 1953. In 1954, he joined the CEM Dental College as a staff member. He ushered in Begg’s Era in India in the 1960s. He had converted his earlier edgewise practice to Begg practice.\(^{6,31}\) Dr Prakash was the second President of the IOS.\(^{21}\) He was the first examiner of IBO.\(^{25}\)

**Dr Ashok Balwant Rai Modi, IOS President (1969 to 1971)**

Dr AB Modi was another stalwart in orthodontic profession (Fig. 11). Dr AB Modi did his BDS in 1955 from Nair Hospital Dental College, Mumbai, and DMD in Orthodontics in Bonn University, Germany under Dr Korkhaus in 1959. He returned to Bombay and joined Nair Dental College as a part time lecturer. He became a prominent figure in establishment of orthodontics in India. He followed Dr HD Merchant in establishing the Orthodontics Department of Nair Dental College and Hospital from 1960 to 1988, for 28 years. He was the founder member and the third President of IOS.\(^{21}\) He was considered an authority in functional appliances. He was appointed by many dental companies as their advisor because of his thorough knowledge about functioning of dental equipments.

**Dr HS Shaikh, IOS President (1971 to 1973)**

Dr HS Shaikh did his BDS from Sir CEM Dental College in 1954 and MDS in Orthodontics in 1961 both from GDC Bombay (Fig. 12). Dr Shaikh was trained under Dr Prem Prakash, Dr AC Henriques and Dr V Iyer. He became a professor in GDC and H, Bombay. Dr Shaikh took voluntary retirement and went to Libya and taught there as Professor and Head of Ortho Department for a period of 31/2 years. Later he joined the King Saud University as Professor of Ortho. He was an eminent teacher and one of the founders of IOS. He popularized Begg technique in India.\(^{32}\)

**Dr Naishad Parikh, IOS President (1973 to 1975)**

Dr Naishad Parikh received his BDS degree from Nair Dental College 1955 (Fig. 13). He was chosen as the first student to do his internship at Boston University US by the Indian Dental Association (IDA) in 1957. He went on to the Loyala University to pursue his Masters degree in Orthodontia, under Dr Richard Jaraback in 1958. He returned to India in 1961 and voluntarily taught students at Nair Dental College and that was the year when he started his own practice in Bombay. In 1962, an honorary post was created for Dr Parikh at Nair Dental College and he joined as a staff of the Orthodontics Department. He was the one of the founder secretary and treasurer of IOS. He introduced Jaraback technique in India in 1961, he retired in 1989.\(^{33}\)

**Dr Keki Mistry, IOS President (1975 to 1978)**

Dr Keki Mistry, one of the first dental specialists who introduced orthodontics and specialty dentistry to India, continues to actively practice his vital vocation (Fig. 14). A dentistry alumnus of Bombay University and the University of Illinois, USA, Dr Mistry also boasts of a Masters in public health from London University and a Doctorate from the International Open University in Copenhagen, Denmark. Oral Health Day, celebrated by WHO on April 7 every year, was conceptualized by him.\(^{34}\)

**Dr Mohandas Bhat**

Dr Mohandas Bhat (Fig. 15) received his dental degree from GDC Bangalore in 1960 and then he migrated to Massachusetts, USA. He received his orthodontic training in US. He also holds a masters degree in public health. He was an eminent teacher who introduced orthodontics in India and was one of the founding members of IOS. He was also honored by IAPHD for introducing the discipline of dental public health in India, by starting the first ever Department of Preventive and Social Dentistry at the Government Dental College (GDC), Bangalore, in 1968. Dr Bhat served with Project HOPE in Natal, Brazil from 1975 to 1979.\(^{35}\)
CONCLUSION

I would like to take this opportunity to thank one and all who have helped me to write the article, which I am sure will benefit our valued doctors, postgraduates as well as graduates.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This article would not have been possible without the help of our eminent teachers and leading orthodontists of India. Dr K Sadashiva Shetty—Principal, Professor and Head, Department of Orthodontics, Bapuji Dental College and Hospital, Davangere and Dr OP Kharbanda—Head of Department of Orthodontics, AIIMS, Delhi. I am indebted to them for providing me with vital information and photographs regarding this article, without which I would not have had the zeal to write this article.

I would also like to thank Dr Naishad Parikh, Founder Secretary and Treasurer IOS, Dr Keki Mistry—Founder Member IOS, leading practitioner, Mumbai, Dr MK Prakash—Academician, Honorary Consultant Orthodontist, Bombay Hospital (Medical Research Center), Mumbai, Dr Vinod Verma—Leading Practitioner, Delhi, Visiting Professor at SDM College of Dental Sciences, Dharwad. To be able to communicate with the above teachers and legends of our profession itself was enough to inspire me to indulge in this presentation.

My heartfelt thanks to Dr Navroze S Kotwal, Practitioner, Mumbai. Dr Sonali Mahadevia HOD, Orthodontics Department, Ahmedabad Dental College, Daughter of Dr AB Modi. Dr Suja Ani, Head of Orthodontics Department, GDC Trivandrum, Dr Ashok Jena—Assistant Professor, Oral Health Center, PGIMER, Chandigarh.

I would also like to thank: Dr Tushar Ahuja (Endodontist), Dr Kirti Saxena, Postgraduate Student, Dr Abhishek Sharma, Postgraduate Student.

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