

ABSTRACT

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Introduction

The present study is on practice of private dentistry in Sri Lanka, of which little is known. This research has been motivated by both global and local developments, which affected the health care delivery in the recent past. Due to the global shift towards market economies there has been an enormous expansion in the provision of health care privately. Further the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) initiated by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have emphasized more reliance on private sector participation in health care delivery. Locally, unlike in the past where graduating dentists in Sri Lanka automatically received government appointments, today entire batches of dental graduates are compelled to make a living in the private sector (at least for several years due to rigorous cut backs in state sector jobs).

Methodology

A descriptive cross sectional study was carried out to survey the "Operational characteristics and supply and demand dynamics of the private sector dental care provision in Sri Lanka".

The study consisted of four parts. First two parts of the study, surveyed the overall supply and demand dynamics. The third part surveyed the private dentistry in the district of Colombo, while the fourth surveyed the dental care product vendors. The methodology and the study design was such it enabled the research findings to be generalized to the entire country. A postal questionnaire, a self administered questionnaire, two interviewer administered questionnaires and two check lists were the study instruments used in this research.

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