



Original Article

# Career choice and future plan of Chinese 8-year stomatology medical doctor program students

Xu Yan <sup>a,\*</sup>, Xinwen Zhang <sup>b</sup>, Yong Shen <sup>c</sup>, Zhe Yi <sup>a</sup>, Lin Wu <sup>a</sup>, Hongjun Ai <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Prosthodontics, School of Stomatology, China Medical University, Shenyang, China

<sup>b</sup> Center of Implant Dentistry, School of Stomatology, China Medical University, Shenyang, China

<sup>c</sup> Education Administration Office, Peking University School of Stomatology, Beijing, China

Received September 10, 2014; accepted December 18, 2014

## Abstract

**Background:** This elite education reform that commenced in 2001 aims to improve the quality of Chinese dentists. It is expected to be one of the biggest drivers that lead dental education of China to a new stage. The authors identified and analyzed the perspectives of Chinese 8-year stomatology medical doctor (SMD) program students toward their career choice and future plan.

**Methods:** The data from a self-administered questionnaire (4 items regarding career choice and 6 items about future plan), administered to 87 8-year SMD program students from the School of Stomatology, Peking University, Beijing, China, were used. The authors performed a comparison of the students of different sexes and home locations using the Chi-square test.

**Results:** Of the students, 34.5% indicated interpersonal motives as the reason to choose the 8-year SMD program, and only 52.9% thought that they had made good choices. The top three popular careers were those of prosthodontists (20.7%), oral surgeons (14.9%), and orthodontists (13.8%). The majority of students preferred first-tier cities (85.7%) and university hospitals (71.3%).

**Conclusion:** In China, most 8-year S.M.D students would like to work as clinical dentists of university hospitals in first-tier cities. The top three career choices of graduates would be prosthodontists, oral surgeons, and orthodontists.

Copyright © 2015 Elsevier Taiwan LLC and the Chinese Medical Association. All rights reserved.

**Keywords:** career choice; China; dental education; 8-year stomatology medical doctor program

## 1. Introduction

In a previous study, we compared the comprehensive quality between doctoral dental students of Japan and 8-year stomatology medical doctor (SMD) program students of China (unpublished data). We found obvious differences and similarities between dental students in the two nations. The results showed that the comprehensive quality of Chinese 8-year SMD program

students was good. An elite-level education reform began in 2001, aiming at improving the quality of Chinese dentists, their participation in international education programs,<sup>1</sup> as well as international cooperation and competition. Despite the total program having been reduced by 2–3 years, educational objectives of the Chinese 8-year SMD program are the same or even higher than those of regular doctoral dental program,<sup>2</sup> and they are much higher than those of 4-year plus 4-year Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) program in North America.<sup>3</sup> Although this new program of dental education in China is still in the trial stage, it is thought to be a big revolution in Chinese dental education. It is expected to be one of the biggest drivers that lead dental education in China to a new era.<sup>4</sup>

Taking Peking University, for example, which have already been 5 graduates about 200 doctoral dental students since 2000.

Conflicts of interest: The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest related to the subject matter or materials discussed in this article.

\* Corresponding author. Dr. Xu Yan, Department of Prosthodontics, School of Stomatology, China Medical University, 117, Nanjing North Street, Shenyang 110001, China.

E-mail address: [xu\\_yantg@163.com](mailto:xu_yantg@163.com) (X. Yan).

Most of these graduates are concentrated in Peking; only a small number of them are working in second-tier cities such as Shenyang and Chongqing. The majority are working in college hospitals or big state hospitals, with a few working in high-end dental offices. Although the graduates are highly appreciated by their employers, many problems still exist. All previous efforts made in Chinese dental education reform were from the vantage point of dental educators. With the education focus shifting from educators to students, more attention has been paid to the views of students with regard to their career choice and future plan. A comparison of dental students' career choice between Japan and Sweden has been reported.<sup>5–8</sup> It is widely known by dental educators that knowing their students' motivations for choosing dentistry, which may have a big influence on their future life, is very important. Questions about students' motivations are normal and important in the interview for admission in many countries.<sup>9</sup> All aspects of education should serve students' future work and development. Knowing their future plan can improve teaching methods and contents. In this study, we surveyed career choices and future plans of Chinese 8-year SMD program students who are different sexes and home locations, to get a better understanding of this new dental education program and hopefully to provide some references for further advancing dental education in China.

## 2. Methods

The 6<sup>th</sup>-, 7<sup>th</sup>-, and 8<sup>th</sup>-year doctoral dental students of the 8-year SMD program of the School of Stomatology, Peking University, Beijing, China, were involved in this study. All the students volunteered and were exposed to clinical practice, research work, and education work in their university hospital during the study. All participants gave verbal consent when joining this study. The questionnaire was self-administered in June 2013. The study was conducted in full accordance with the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki. The Human Research Ethics Committee involved in this project approved the study protocol.

Information was gathered from a questionnaire consisting of three parts: basic information on sex and home location, four questions for career choice (Items 1–4), and six questions for future plan (Items 5–10). The questions were similar to those in our previous comparative study between dental students in China and Japan, but added some questions about characteristics of the 8-year SMD program.<sup>10</sup> There were three multiple-choice questions (Items 1, 6, and 8), four descriptive questions (Items 2, 4, 7, and 10), and three mixed questions (composed of 1 multiple-choice question and 1 descriptive question; Items 3, 5, and 9; Table 1). The questionnaire was originally developed in Chinese, and later translated into English with assistance from native English speakers.

### 2.1. Statistical analysis

Simple frequency tables for group comparison were developed. In Items 3–5, 8, and 9, students were classified again based on their responses as Items 3a, 4a, 5a, 8a, and 9a,

respectively. For analysis of the results, the Chi-square test was applied between four kinds of students of different sexes and home locations (except for Items 3a, 9a, and 10). Mann–Whitney *U* test was used for Item 10. For Items 3a and 9a, statistical analysis could not be employed, only the percentages are shown in the tables. Statistical significance was based on  $p < 0.05$ . Data were analyzed by the Graph Pad Prism 5 project (Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan).

## 3. Results

A total of 87 questionnaires (male: 39, female: 48) were returned. The response rate was 98.9% (87/88). The home locations of the dental students were classified as first-tier city and other city, town, or country.

Responses to the questions regarding the motivation toward career choice are shown in Table 2. The three most important reasons for choosing dentistry for most of the students were “help and value,” “money/social,” and “flexibility.”

If there was a chance to reselect their career (Item 3), only 52.9% of responding students would still choose an 8-year SMD program. Nearly one-fifth of students would not choose an 8-year SMD program again. More than one-fourth of students were not sure. Among all students, the most complained problems were long school time and no chance to quit and reselect (70.6%). The next common complaint was disappointment with the future social position and income of dentists (64.7%).

In Item 4, we categorized the strength of 8-year SMD program students compared with other normal doctor-degree dentists. The results showed that “professional” (55.2%), “young” (48.3%), and “prominent” (39.1%) were the main advantages of them. For weaknesses (Item 4a), the majority of the students were worried about their “lack of experience” (65.5%) and “poor research ability” (65.5%).

Responses to the questions regarding the future plan are shown in Table 3. Generally, about half of students wanted to become general dentists (46%) and half of students wanted to become specialist dentists (47.1%). Only a few students wanted to be occupied in dental education (5.7%) and research work (2.3%; Item 5). Furthermore, prosthodontics (20.7%), oral surgery (14.9%), and orthodontics (13.8%) were the three most popular specializations (Item 5a). Only 14.9% of students had plans to work abroad, and 42.5% wanted to stay and work in China. For choice of work unit (Item 7), the top-rated unit was “university hospital” (71.3%), followed by running one's own dental office (21.8%). Only one student wanted to work in each of a scientific institute, community hospital, and others' dental office. For Item 8, 85.1% students wanted to work in first-tier cities, while only 14.9% of students wanted to work in second/third-tier cities. No students wanted to work in small cities, towns, or villages. For Item 9, nearly 5% of students wanted to give up their clinical work after their graduation.

## 4. Discussion

We used data from a self-administered questionnaire of 87 8-year SMD program students from the School of

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/3475938>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/3475938>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)