

BEST PRACTICE -1

COMPASSIONATE DENTISTRY: PALLIATIVE ORAL HEALTHCARE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Al Azhar Dental College has launched an initiative to provide oral health services to inmates in Mariyasadanam, Pala, and Divyarakshalayam, Kumaramangalam. The initiative is a significant step towards bridging the gap in oral health care for individuals in institutionalized settings. The aim of the initiative is not only to provide oral health care services to inmates but also to develop the social commitment of dental students towards society.

Objectives

1. To provide oral health awareness to the inmates: Through awareness, various dental problems can be prevented which ultimately leads to improved overall health and well-being.
2. Provide oral screening and do basic procedures like scaling, restorations, and extractions: Through regular oral screenings, we can identify any dental issues that may have gone unnoticed and help prevent any unnecessary pain or discomfort.
3. To create social commitment for students towards society: By encouraging social commitment among students, you can help them develop empathy, compassion, and a sense of social responsibility, which are essential for building a better society.
4. To train students on the management of intellectually challenged groups: This training includes strategies for communicating with such individuals, understanding their unique needs, and developing appropriate support systems. By providing these skills, students can become effective advocates for this population and contribute to creating a more inclusive society.

The Context

The initiative focuses on developing the social commitment of students towards society. The students are provided with a unique opportunity to serve the community and interact with intellectually challenged individuals. This exposure helps them to understand the challenges faced

by these individuals, develop empathy towards them and helps students to appreciate the value of social responsibility and become more sensitive to the needs of the society.

The Practice

Our institution has collaborated with Mariyasadnam, Pala and Divyarakshalayam, Kumaramangalam for various dental screening and treatment camps for mentally retarded inmates in these institutions.

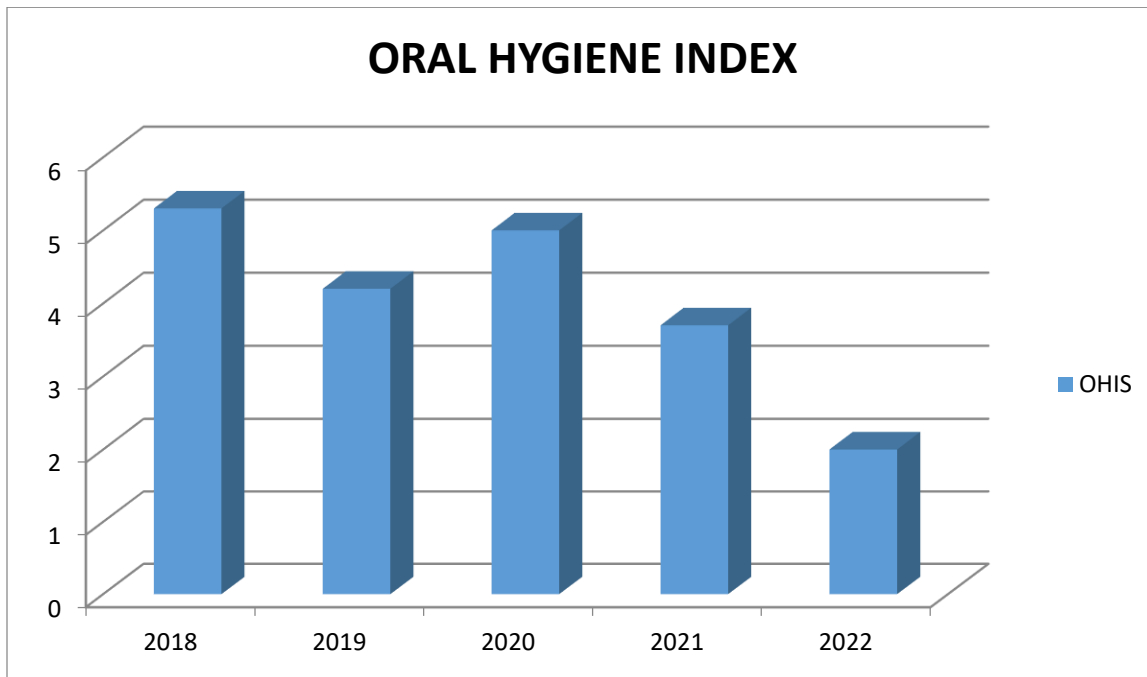
The college has established satellite centers in both institutions to provide free oral health care, on a regular basis. This initiative is beneficial in providing early diagnosis and timely treatment of oral diseases such as scaling, restorations and extractions.

Evidence of success

The initiative has received positive feedback from all stakeholders, including inmates, staff, and caregivers. It has made a significant impact on the oral health of individuals in institutionalized settings and has raised awareness of the importance of oral health care. The initiative is a clear example of how educational institutions can collaborate with other organizations to serve the community and contribute to society.

DIVYARAKSHALAYAM

PATIENT ORAL HYGIENE STATUS FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS

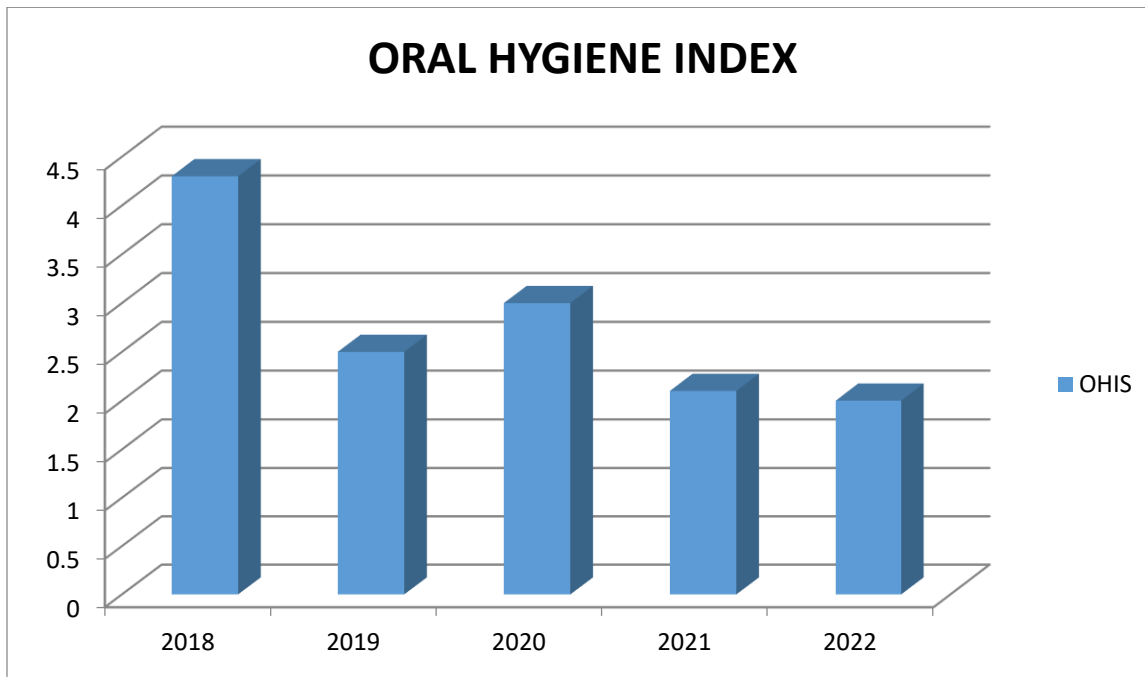


OHIS SCORE	INTERPRETATION
0-1.2	GOOD
1.3-3	FAIR
3-6	POOR

Al Azhar Dental College provides monthly dental therapy to the inmates at Divyarakshalayam, the institution's satellite facility, which has resulted in the inmates' oral hygiene condition improving from "poor" to "good" during the last 5 years. Higher indices in the year 2020 indicate the inability to provide regular visits due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

MARIYASADANAM

PATIENT ORAL HYGIENE STATUS FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS



OHIS SCORE	INTERPRETATION
0-1.2	GOOD
1.3-3	FAIR
3-6	POOR

The institution has been successful in providing ample dental services to the inmates of Mariyasadanam, Pala which is one of the satellite centers of Al Azhar Dental College. The graphical representation indicates that the oral hygiene status of the inmates has increased from the “poor” category in the year 2018 to the category “good” by 2022. A slightly poor result in the year 2020 indicates the inability to provide regular service to the inmates due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Initially, we faced some issues in getting approval from the concerned authorities to conduct the dental screening and treatment camps in the institutions. We explained the objectives of the initiative and highlighted the positive impact it would have on the oral health of the inmates, assuring that all necessary precautions would be taken to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the dental services provided. We eventually received the necessary approvals from the authorities and the project is a huge success now.