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# **Gender Promotion Policy - Revised Version**

#### Introduction:

The Gender Promotion Policy of Al Azhar Dental College (AADC) aims to foster gender equity and prevent discrimination based on gender. This policy ensures that all students, staff, and faculty members are provided with equal access to resources, opportunities, and support to achieve success, regardless of their gender. Over the past five years, significant progress has been made toward gender inclusivity, and this revised policy reflects updated goals, best practices, and the evolving landscape of gender equity in education and professional spaces.

### **Objectives:**

- 1. Ensure Equal Educational Opportunities: Guarantee that all students, regardless of gender, have equal access to resources, academic support, and opportunities to succeed in their studies.
- 2. Promote a Safe and Inclusive Environment: Foster an environment free from all forms of gender-based harassment, discrimination, and bias.
- 3. Encourage Equal Faculty Opportunities: Ensure equal opportunities for career advancement, leadership roles, and professional development for all faculty members, irrespective of gender.
- 4. Support Gender Equity in Leadership: Increase the representation of women and underrepresented gender groups in leadership positions, governance, and decision-making processes.
- Expand Gender Awareness and Training: Promote ongoing awareness campaigns and educational programs that highlight gender issues, inclusivity, and the importance of diversity.
- 6. Create Mentorship and Networking Opportunities: Strengthen mentorship and networking programs for female students and faculty, providing guidance and career advancement tools.

#### **Key Actions and Strategies:**

#### 1. Access to Resources:

 Ensure that both male and female students have equal access to essential academic resources, including textbooks, laboratories, research opportunities, and digital tools.

o Promote scholarships, fellowships, and financial assistance that support underrepresented genders in the field of dentistry.

2. Prevent Gender-Based Harassment:

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- o Strengthen the anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies with a focus on addressing gender-based violence and microaggressions.
- o Establish clear procedures for reporting incidents of discrimination or harassment, ensuring protection and privacy for those who report.

### 3. Faculty Representation and Professional Development:

- Continue efforts to recruit, retain, and support female faculty members and faculty from other underrepresented gender identities.
- Provide professional development programs and leadership training to support gender equity among faculty and staff.
- o Implement policies to ensure equal pay for equal work and foster an inclusive work culture.

### 4. Leadership and Governance:

- o Increase the representation of women and gender-diverse individuals in leadership positions at the department and institutional levels.
- Create policies that actively encourage women and gender-diverse individuals to apply for leadership and governance roles.
- o Establish mentoring programs for emerging female leaders in academic and administrative positions.

## 5. Student Engagement and Support:

- Organize awareness campaigns, workshops, and seminars on gender equality, inclusion, and diversity.
- o Provide tailored support services for students of different gender identities, ensuring they feel supported academically and socially.
- o Strengthen the representation of gender-diverse individuals in student leadership and decision-making bodies.

### 6. Inclusive Curriculum and Research:

- o Develop and implement a gender-inclusive curriculum that reflects diverse perspectives, challenges traditional gender roles, and promotes an understanding of gender equality in healthcare, particularly in dentistry.
- Encourage and support research that explores gender issues in dentistry, medical education, and patient care.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

To assess the impact of this policy, AADC will implement a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework, which includes:

- Annual reviews of gender equity initiatives and their outcomes.
- Regular surveys to gather feedback from students, faculty, and staff about the policy's effectiveness and areas for improvement.
- **Data collection** on gender representation in key areas such as student enrollment, faculty recruitment, leadership roles, and awards to assess progress toward gender equity.
- External audits or reviews to ensure compliance with national and international gender equity standards.

Review and Revision:

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Al-Azhar Dental College Thodupuzha - 685 605 This policy will be reviewed every five years to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. Adjustments will be made based on feedback from students, staff, faculty, and stakeholders, along with changes in legal, regulatory, or institutional priorities. The review process will be transparent, and the outcomes will be communicated to all members of the college community.

#### **Conclusion:**

Al Azhar Dental College remains committed to creating an environment where all individuals, regardless of their gender, can succeed and thrive. This revised Gender Promotion Policy reflects our continued dedication to achieving gender equity, ensuring an inclusive and supportive community for all students, staff, and faculty. Gender equity is integral to our mission, and we are committed to fostering an educational and professional environment that supports diversity and inclusion in all its forms.

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