

El incremento de las escuelas de odontológica en México:
¿Se ha convertido en un negocio para las universidades
privadas o ha ayudado a resolver necesidades
de salud bucal y educativas?

*The increase in dental schools in Mexico: Has become a business for private
universities or has helped meet needs and educational oral health?*

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Resumen

Debemos reconocer y valorar el desempeño que en sus inicios las universidades privadas han tenido y el impulso a la educación que desde hace varios años estas instituciones le han dado a México. No podemos negar que existen universidades e instituciones privadas que ofrecen opciones educativas de calidad, con logros muy importantes en pregrado y posgrado dentro de la educación odontológica, cuyos recursos se siguen reinvertiendo en formación e investigación.

A principios de los setentas surgieron universidades privadas que brindaron opciones para estudiar la Licenciatura en Odontología, sin los sobresaltos de huelgas, paros o problemas que surgieron en las universidades públicas como la UNAM en la Ciudad de México, y la falta de oportunidades que en ese tiempo existían en algunos Estados de la República que no tenían la opción de la odontología en sus licenciaturas.

Palabras clave: escuela, odontología, México, negocio, universidades.

Abstract

We must recognize and appreciate the performance that initially private universities have had and the promotion of education for several years that these institutions have given to Mexico. We can not deny that there are universities and private institutions that offer quality educational options, with major achievements in undergraduate and graduate education within the dental, whose resources are reinvested in training and research.

In the early seventies emerged private universities that provided options for studying the Bachelor of Dentistry, without the shocks of strikes, work stoppages or problems encountered in public universities such as UNAM in Mexico City, and the lack of opportunities in that time existed in some states of the country that did not have the option of dentistry in their degrees.

Key Words: school, dentistry, Mexico, business, universities.

Reception Date: January 2012

Acceptance Date: April 2012

Introduction

The children of families solvents great pains nor money to give their children preparing for college they wanted and they did not want to attend a public university for its history of uncertainty in the studies were the first to benefit when in the late seventies degrees are created in dentistry in private universities as UNITEC (1970), American University (1975)

and Intercontinental University (1976), which offered career Dentist, as an alternative to public universities, which at that time was suffering serious problems with student movements that arose within him.

As these private universities arising purposes of satisfying academic requirements for demands of a part of society, years before, in 1935 a group of university students, supported by their teachers and much of the society of the time Ochoa was they opposed the socialist education that wanted to implement the government of President Lázaro Cárdenas and decided to form the Autonomous University of Guadalajara, and thus the first private university in Mexico. With it also creates the first degree in dentistry from a private university in Mexico.

As we see in the case of the Autonomous University of Guadalajara, and in the seventies with UNITEC, Intercontinental University or American University, they had a clear objective to provide education for various reasons the public university did not meet the needs of some of people requiring a quality education, but this has not been the purpose of private universities in the last decade have proliferated in the country seeking only an insatiable and mercantilist economic motive. You can not think otherwise when one private university (MMU) is up to 11 dental schools distributed throughout the country.

Content

Today is the disproportionate number of private schools that offer a degree in dentistry in the country, if a single private undergraduate until 1969, increased to 35 by the year 2002 and in the next ten years has accelerated increase totaling to 20012 in 107 private schools, this beats public universities being 15 in 1969, increased to 40 in 2002 and for 2012 are 44, only two public schools increased from 72 private in ten years (see Table 1).

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS OF DENTISTRY

DISTRIBUTED BY REGION * AND ACADEMIC SYSTEM 1969 - 2002 – 2012

REGION	PUBLICAS		PRIVADAS			TOTAL		
	1969	2002	1969	2002	1969	2002	1969	2002
	2012		2012		2012		2012	
I Noroeste	0	5	0	0	10	0	5	16
	6							
II Noreste	5	7	0		14	5		21
	7		24			31		
III Centro-Occidente	3	5	1		7	4	12	22
	6		16					
IV Centro Sur	2	9	0		8	2		17
	9		36			45		
V Sur Sureste	4	10	0		1	4	11	21
	10		11					
VI Área Metropolitana y Cd.de México	1	6	0		5	1	11	16
	6		10					
TOTAL	15	42	1		35	16		77
	44		107			151		

Table 1 Comparison of the number of public and private schools of dentistry in 1969, 2002 and 2012

According to the Regions of Mexico

I Northwest Region Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua

Northeast Region II Coahuila, Durango Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosi, Tamaulipas and Zacatecas

Central-Western Region III Aguascalientes, Colima, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Michoacán, Nayarit

Region IV South-Central Guerrero, Hidalgo, Edo. of Mexico, Morelos, Puebla, Querétaro, Tlaxcala

Region V South-east Campeche, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, Tabasco, Veracruz, Yucatán

Metropolitan Region VI Federal District

Today, in almost all the States of the Republic and in virtually all towns and cities in the country, there are public and private schools that offer a degree in dentistry, totaling 151 schools that offer a degree of dental education in Mexico.

Dentistry has become an investment for capitalists who want to double their money through education, many of these degrees have become franchises for investors, who do not know but if business education and only want to see your money produce without seeing the damage they cause to the profession.

Concern is the creation of new dental schools in the country encouraged by the investment of private capital, without the authority to do something to control them or stop them, these universities take refuge in an Acknowledgment of Federal Official Validity of Studies (RVOE) to open degrees throughout the country, without regard to the guidelines that state education authorities imposed.

The problem of private education is not unique to our country in the Latin American Convergence Project in Dental Education 2010 held in Sao Pulo Brazil in the final document state: "we tell them our deep disappointment in the same terms, when we support idea of the members of the Federal House of Brazil, to which private capital could be applied to higher education by promoting more speedily in our country. Unfortunately, years later, we were forced to recognize the serious mistake, because of the total lack of planning and oversight for this capital could have been successfully applied in higher education. We can not deny that there are foundations and religious institutions dunks or lay entirely in an educational process, but unfortunately there are financial groups that are organized to invest and get quick returns from these investments commodifying higher education in dentistry. "

And in the same project say that one of the situations that impede or affect the exercise of the profession and are an easily identifiable factor is problematic:

"The emergence of private universities schools without an adequate system of regulation, with the aggravation that some go after mercantilism academicism".

The increase in dental schools logically affects the enrollment of students who wish to study every year dentistry career in public or private schools and an enrollment of 13,581 students in Mexico In 1992, increased to 51,487 in 2012.

This uncontrolled dental education will continue to increase in the following years, while Mexico does not exist in a body to regulate its opening, these still appear to justify a social need that does not exist, and control of oral diseases has not been given.

The increase in dental schools and dentists only help promote higher unemployment and lack of job placement of new dentists in the health and educational institutions, leading to practice their profession to competition for labor market each shrinking, or to seek new forms of underemployment in recent graduates who fail to study a diploma or a specialty and for these there and the mode of traveling specialists, a specialist at the door of your office, where the dentist becomes patron a group of specialists who work for him when I call and usually charge commission to the owner's office.

There are also always around the country, dental clinics where the owner is a dentist no investor that invests in equipment and riding a clinic commission hires graduates need to work with that authority supervises the operation of these establishments have existed in the big cities and already appear in other major cities.

The employment status of dentists in the country is worrisome, as we see in Table 2

Total number and employment status of dentists in Mexico 2002, 2004 and 2012

Años considerados	2000	2004	2012
Población total	97,483,412	104.959.594	112.336.538
Número total de odontólogos	94,998	153 102	Sin datos
% de mujeres	60&	60.2%	54.9%

% de hombres	40%	39.8%	45.1%
% de odontólogos que trabajan	80.2%	73%	119,000
% de odontólogos que trabajan en su profesión	58.2%	54.7 %	59%
% de odontólogos que no trabajan en su profesión	22%	18.3%	41%
% de odontólogos que no trabajan	19.8%	27%	Sin datos
% de odontólogos que trabajan en el sector privado	84.8%	81%	85.8%
% de odontólogos que trabajan en el sector publico	15.2%	19%	14.2%

Table 2 Source: INEGI, National Employment Survey 2000 and 2004, Mexico. 2012 Labor Observatory and other sources

In the aspect of controlling oral diseases, with little or no contribution to reduce these diseases in the population despite increasing the number of dentists in the country is evident, since 90% of the population is suffering from dental caries.

It seems incongruous, but the spirit preventive graduates of these institutions exist only in theory and in reality, a graduate of a career in dentistry at a private university that spent a small fortune on his training, he and his family (normally paid by the studios) hope this profession produce a higher yield to them and compensate the amount spent by the professional look make the treatments economically more profitable, for it will not need more than a brief training that these private universities offer their graduates courses update or diplomas in implants, cosmetic dentistry, orthodontics, endodontics practice, to name a few it seems are the most profitable among the profession. Perhaps, this is the only response that exists to justify the initiation of more degrees in dentistry private universities

have the income that this represents for those universities in tuition, refresher courses, courses, specialties, masters and doctoral always offer its graduates.

Conclusion

There is no real planning on opening dental schools in Mexico, no previous studies on industrial real needs and oral health are made when a dental school opens.

This has led to the saturation of dental professionals and rising unemployment, making dentists look for new forms of underemployment, and a competition between the dental market for diminishing patients who can afford the dental services they offer .

The most common diseases of the oral cavity such as caries and periodontal disease are still not controlled despite virtually every major city in the country has a dentistry school.

Recommendations

Should encourage the formation of a state regulatory body for the opening or closing of dental schools, to supervise the curriculum and teaching and compliance in the operation of classrooms clinics and laboratories.

It is important that each faculty or school of dentistry establish permanent dental education campaigns to create in people the need to go to the dentist with this, each school would be promoting jobs for its graduates.

Associations and schools that bring together dentists in the country must work for the state to legislate against schools that do not meet the requirements to become a school in the area of health.

Besides associations and schools must also worry about the saturation of the profession and the lack of jobs and take steps to open dental schools is limited in the future.

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