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| **Table S1.** Open-ended questions opinions and thoughts of the sample | | | | | |
|  |  | **Dentists** | | **Students** | |
|  |  | Ν | Ν% | Ν | Ν% |
| QD1: Mention ways in which you think the importance of environmental awareness could be taught and enhanced in higher education institutions. | Actions to protect the environment, recycling, volunteering | 22 | 28.95% | 22 | 29.33% |
| Integration of courses with ecological content into the curriculum | 22 | 28.95% | 24 | 32.00% |
| Awareness conferences and seminars on environmental protection issues | 20 | 26.32% | 30 | 40.00% |
| Actions in the context of clinics | 3 | 3.95% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Development of environmental awareness and practical implementations | 1 | 1.32% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Adoption of environmental awareness by the institutions themselves and their staff to become role models | 1 | 1.32% | 7 | 9.33% |
| Update through courses on dental materials and dental practices | 0 | 0.00% | 7 | 9.33% |
| Conferences with construction companies | 0 | 0.00% | 1 | 1.33% |
|  |  | Dentists | | Students | |
|  |  | Ν | Ν% | Ν | Ν% |
| QD2: Which factors (processes/equipment/materials) in the operation of a dental office do you think are the most burdensome to the environment? | Plastic consumables and packaging | 43 | 56.58% | 29 | 38.67% |
| Amalgam and resins | 12 | 15.79% | 22 | 29.33% |
| Paper consumption | 8 | 10.53% | 3 | 4.00% |
| High water consumption | 8 | 10.53% | 6 | 8.00% |
| Impression materials | 6 | 7.89% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Harmful Radiation and X-ray Imaging Fluids | 6 | 7.89% | 1 | 1.33% |
| Harmful chemicals | 5 | 6.58% | 11 | 14.67% |
| High power consumption | 4 | 5.26% | 4 | 5.33% |
| Use of unverified devices | 3 | 3.95% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Non-recycling/wrong sorting of waste | 0 | 0.00% | 5 | 6.67% |
| Reusable tools | 0 | 0.00% | 1 | 1.33% |
|  |  | Dentists | | Students | |
|  |  | Ν | Ν% | Ν | Ν% |
| QD3: What characteristics do you think a modern dental office should have to be considered ecological (green)? | Recycling (use of recyclable materials, proper separation of materials, use of appropriate bins) | 28 | 36.84% | 26 | 34.67% |
| Use of digital media for its operation | 18 | 23.68% | 3 | 4.00% |
| Energy saving (LED lamps, high energy class devices) | 12 | 15.79% | 7 | 9.33% |
| Proper use of amalgam (use of separator, etc.) | 9 | 11.84% | 3 | 4.00% |
| Saving of paper and consumables | 7 | 9.21% | 4 | 5.33% |
| Use of green energy for its operation | 5 | 6.58% | 3 | 4.00% |
| Building energy upgrade (thermal insulation, frames) | 3 | 3.95% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Reduction of patients’ journeys | 1 | 1.32% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Use of environmentally friendly tools/appliances (reusable, appropriate materials, etc.) | 0 | 0.00% | 32 | 42.67% |
| Water saving | 0 | 0.00% | 6 | 8.00% |
| Promote environmentally friendly products and dental practices to patients | 0 | 0.00% | 4 | 5.33% |
| Environmental awareness of the staff | 0 | 0.00% | 3 | 4.00% |
|  |  | Dentists | | Students | |
|  |  | Ν | Ν% | Ν | Ν% |
| QD4: In what ways do you think manufacturers and merchants of dental tools and materials could contribute to environmental protection? | Use of recycled and recyclable materials for materials/tools and their packaging | 18 | 23.68% | 11 | 14.67% |
| Environmentally friendly products/devices - Limitation of toxic materials | 17 | 22.37% | 36 | 48.00% |
| Reduction of volume and use of non-recyclable raw materials in packaging | 11 | 14.47% | 4 | 5.33% |
| Financial incentives for the use of ecological products | 6 | 7.89% | 4 | 5.33% |
| Reusable tools/materials | 6 | 7.89% | 2 | 2.67% |
| Reduction of factory pollution/Green certification | 4 | 5.26% | 7 | 9.33% |
| Informing dentists about the various materials | 3 | 3.95% | 2 | 2.67% |
| Reduction of routes and use of ecological means of transport | 3 | 3.95% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Special marking of products | 2 | 2.63% | 3 | 4.00% |
| Promotion of ecological awareness through informational actions/marketing | 1 | 1.32% | 6 | 8.00% |
| Water and energy saving | 0 | 0.00% | 5 | 6.67% |
|  |  | Dentists | | Students | |
|  |  | Ν | Ν% | Ν | Ν% |
| QD5: What actions/decisions that the dentist can make during clinical practice, do you think are more environmentally friendly? | Recycling/ separation of waste | 19 | 25.00% | 16 | 21.33% |
| Use of environmentally friendly equipment/materials | 18 | 23.68% | 17 | 22.67% |
| Water/paper saving | 15 | 19.74% | 16 | 21.33% |
| Rational use of materials/avoidance of waste | 13 | 17.11% | 17 | 22.67% |
| Energy saving | 11 | 14.47% | 6 | 8.00% |
| Use of digital technology | 5 | 6.58% | 2 | 2.67% |
| Reusable tools | 5 | 6.58% | 2 | 2.67% |
| Combination of dental appointments, speed of working | 3 | 3.95% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Equipment renewal | 2 | 2.63% | 1 | 1.33% |
| Use of amalgam separator | 0 | 0.00% | 2 | 2.67% |
|  |  | Dentists | | Students | |
|  |  | Ν | Ν% | Ν | Ν% |
| QD6: How do you think the dentist could participate in promoting environmental awareness among his patients and colleagues within the dental office? | Informative videos, brochures, posters in the waiting room | 14 | 18.42% | 14 | 18.67% |
| Recycling/sorting of waste or cooperation with competent bodies | 12 | 15.79% | 7 | 9.33% |
| Promote environmentally friendly oral hygiene products and practices to patients | 12 | 15.79% | 31 | 41.33% |
| Informing patients or promoting information/awareness actions/sessions on environmental issues | 12 | 15.79% | 10 | 13.33% |
| Education on the proper use of materials, separation and recycling of dental office waste | 9 | 11.84% | 1 | 1.33% |
| Water/paper saving | 8 | 10.53% | 4 | 5.33% |
| Energy saving | 5 | 6.58% | 1 | 1.33% |
| Use of environmentally friendly equipment/materials | 2 | 2.63% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Rational use of materials/avoidance of waste | 2 | 2.63% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Use of digital media | 2 | 2.63% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Special marking at the doctor's office | 1 | 1.32% | 1 | 1.33% |
|  |  | Dentists | | Students | |
|  |  | Ν | Ν% | Ν | Ν% |
| QD7: What social actions can a dentist undertake or participate in that you think can have a positive impact on shaping a social environmental culture outside of the workplace? | Volunteering (Reforestation/tree planting/Cleaning etc.)/Social events/Environmental organizations | 25 | 32.89% | 33 | 44.00% |
| Organization/Participation in lectures and training seminars/conferences | 11 | 14.47% | 21 | 28.00% |
| Visits-speeches in schools and universities | 9 | 11.84% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Training/updating himself or his colleagues | 6 | 7.89% | 11 | 14.67% |
| Social/ environmental dentistry actions | 5 | 6.58% | 3 | 4.00% |
| Recycling/waste disposal | 1 | 1.32% | 7 | 9.33% |
| Promotion of actions on social media | 0 | 0.00% | 3 | 4.00% |
| Limitation of movements/use of public transport | 0 | 0.00% | 2 | 2.67% |