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Unravelling the impact of dental workforce training and education programmes on policy evolution: a mixed-method study protocol

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Abstract

Background: The dental workforce plays a crucial role in delivering quality oral healthcare services, requiring continuous training and education to meet evolving professional demands. Understanding the impact of dental workforce training and education programmes on policy evolution is essential for refining existing policies, implementing evidence-based reforms and ensuring the growth of the dental profession. Therefore, this study protocol aims to assess the influence of dental workforce training and education programmes on policy evolution in Malaysia. **Methods:** A mixed-method research design will be employed, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews. Stakeholder theory and policy change models will form the theoretical framework of the study. Participants from various stakeholder groups will be recruited using purposive sampling. Data collection will involve surveys and one-on-one semi-structured interviews. Descriptive statistics, inferential analysis and thematic analysis will be used to analyse the data. Integration of quantitative and qualitative data will be used to provide a comprehensive understanding of the data. **Discussion:** This study will shed light on factors influencing policy decisions related to dental education and workforce development in Malaysia. The findings will inform evidence-based decision-making, guide the enhancement of dental education programmes and improve the quality of oral healthcare services. Challenges related to participant recruitment and data collection should be considered, and the study's unique contribution to the existing body of knowledge in the Malaysian context will be discussed. © 2023, BioMed Central Ltd., part of Springer Nature.

Author Keywords

Dental services; Education programme; Health policy; Healthcare reform; Stakeholder participation

Index Keywords

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