

Introduction

Dental education faces numerous challenges, including rapid advancements in technology, changes in healthcare delivery, and evolving patient demographics. To address these challenges effectively, educational strategies must evolve to meet the demands of the 21st-century dental workforce. The SPICES model provides a framework for innovation in dental curriculum design and educational delivery, promoting student engagement, critical thinking, and clinical competence.

Where we Stand & What is the Vision?

Characteristics of an innovative curriculum		Characteristics of a traditional curriculum	
S	Student-centered	↔	Teacher-centered
P	Problem-based	↔	Information gathering
I	Integrated	↔	Discipline-based
C	Community-based	↔	Hospital-based
E	Elective-oriented	↔	Standard program
S	Systematic	↔	Apprenticeship-based/opportunistic

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How to meet the criteria?

SWOT Analysis	
<p>Strengths</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interdisciplinary Approach: Incorporation of various fields (health sciences, technology) enhances learning. 2. Hands-on Training: Clinical practice and simulations provide real-world experience. 3. Dedicated Faculty: Experienced educators and practitioners contribute to a rich learning environment. 4. Accreditation Standards: Established guidelines ensure quality education. 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technological Advancements: Integration of digital tools (e.g., virtual reality, online learning) can enhance education. 2. Global Collaboration: Partnerships with international institutions can provide diverse learning experiences. 3. Focus on Preventive Care: Shifting towards preventive dentistry opens new curriculum possibilities. 4. Increased Demand for Dental Professionals: Growing population and awareness create opportunities for expanding programs.
<p>Weaknesses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traditional Curriculum: Outdated teaching methods may not engage students effectively. 2. Limited Resources: Insufficient access to modern technology and facilities can hinder learning. 3. Lack of Interprofessional Education: Limited collaboration with other health disciplines may restrict comprehensive learning. 4. Resistance to Change: Some faculty may be hesitant to adopt new teaching methods. 	<p>Threats</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rapid Changes in Technology: Keeping up with advancements can be challenging for curricula. 2. Economic Constraints: Budget cuts may limit resources for innovative programs. 3. Competition from Other Institutions: Increased competition may affect enrollment and funding. 4. Regulatory Changes: New regulations can impact curriculum requirements and delivery.
<p>Proposed Strategies Aligned with SPICES Model</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Curriculum Redesign: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement the SPICES model to create a more engaging, student-centered curriculum that emphasizes problem-solving and integration of knowledge. 2. Embrace Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use digital tools to support problem-based learning, allowing students to engage with realistic scenarios and enhance their critical thinking skills. 3. Enhance Interprofessional Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foster collaboration with other health disciplines to promote integrated learning experiences and emphasize community-oriented care. 4. Continuous Professional Development for Faculty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide training on innovative teaching methodologies that align with student-centered learning principles, ensuring faculty are equipped to deliver effective education. 5. Resource Allocation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocate for increased funding to improve facilities and access to modern technologies that support elective courses and innovative teaching methods. 6. Community Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop outreach programs that provide students with opportunities to engage with diverse populations, emphasizing preventive care and community health education. 7. Feedback Mechanisms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement regular feedback loops from students and alumni to continually assess the effectiveness of SPICES-aligned educational practices, ensuring continuous improvement. 	

Conclusion

Dental education faces numerous challenges, including rapid advancements in technology, changes in healthcare delivery, and evolving patient demographics. To address these challenges effectively, educational strategies must evolve to meet the demands of the 21st-century dental workforce. The SPICES model provides a framework for innovation in dental curriculum design and educational delivery, promoting student engagement, critical thinking, and clinical competence.