

CHILDREN FIRST

Children are our greatest future resource. However, utilization of this precious resource is only possible if this segment of our population relishes optimal health. Good oral health is considered vital for optimum general health. Unfortunately oral/dental health of our Nation's children has historically been neglected. Children's dentistry was seldom seriously taught at undergraduate level, resulting in dental graduates who lacked ability to provide even basic preventive and restorative dental services to children. Ironically, hundreds of extra academic hours were spent on areas which could not even be considered essential for health. Voices were continuously raised about this unfortunate allocation of academic resources, but mostly met irresponsive ears. While the importance of children's oral health was being recognized in whole world including our neighbors, we remained torpid in this regard. Great news finally for the Nation's children and their oral health. Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC) has recently decided that Pediatric Dentistry will be taught as a major examinable subject during final year of the BDS program. This historic decision is laudable and will result in future dental graduates fully equipped with skills to provide preventive and primary restorative services to the most important segment of our Nation, the children. The PM&DC's decision will also enhance international recognition of our undergraduate dental training. Salutations to all those who made efforts and contributed towards this historic decision. Healthy mouths mean healthy bodies. Healthy bodies nurture healthy minds and consequently a brighter future of our younger generation.

AMJAD H WYNE
PRESIDENT
PAKISTAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY