



Practicing Sustainability and Environment-Friendly Dentistry

BY HEERA GOVINDARAJAN VENGUIDESVARANE,

IDS 2022

Questions..Questions..Questions..

- Why do we need to do this?
- What is the point?
- Will this make any difference?
- Why should I do this?
- How should I do this?
- How is this going to help the planet and the community?



The big “WHY?”

Dentistry is included in the healthcare sector contributing approximately 3% of the 10% carbon footprint annually in the United States

Universal lack of understanding as to what constitutes sustainable dentistry practice in principle

Many challenges to incorporate a systematic and pragmatic management framework identifying, prioritizing, supporting, and addressing relevant sustainable development issues in a dental service provider's practice

But How?

- Understanding the problem
- Analyzing what needs to be done
- Finding practical solutions
- Spreading the word
- Creating awareness
- And more.....



This project – “Understanding the problem”



TO ASSESS AND ANALYZE THE INTERESTS AND LIMITATIONS EXPRESSED BY DENTISTS, STUDENT DENTISTS, DENTAL ASSISTANTS AND OTHER DENTAL/ALLIED PROFESSIONALS AT UOP ON PRACTICING SUSTAINABILITY AND ECO-FRIENDLY DENTISTRY



TO LEARN ABOUT THE GENERAL VIEWS ON SUSTAINABILITY



TO IDENTIFY LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE, CONTRIBUTE AND/OR ORGANIZE EVENTS AND SEMINARS IN THE FORM OF A STUDENT ORGANIZATION

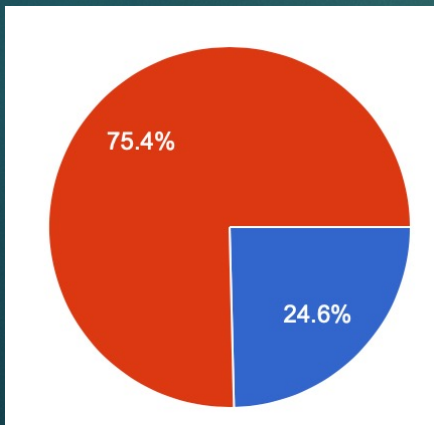


USED A SURVEY TO DISTRIBUTE TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND ANALYZED THE RESULTS

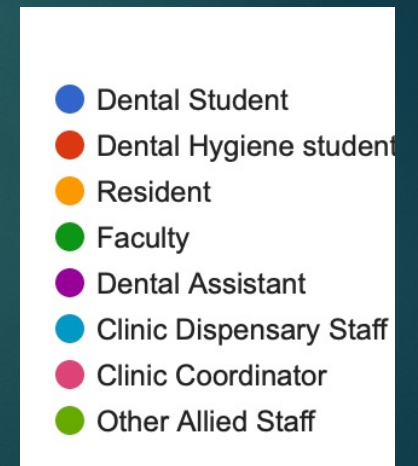
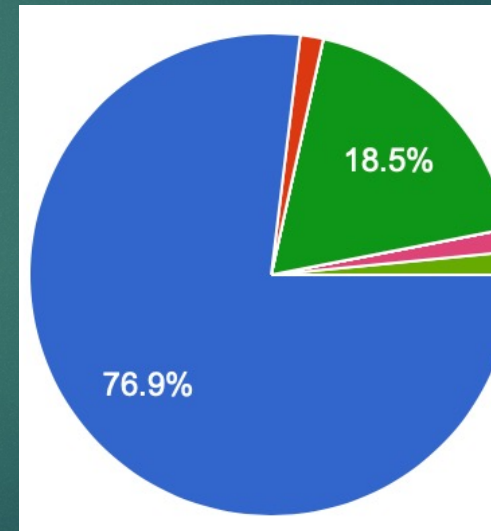
“The big reveal” – Survey results:

Demographics:

- Total Participants: 65
- Average age: 32 years (22-73)
- Sex:



- Role in dentistry:



“The big reveal” – Survey results:

Current perception on sustainability and eco-dentistry

- 100% of the respondents are interested in practicing sustainability and sustainable living in general
- One half agree that single use dental materials are used more than needed in any dental appointment
- Majority are unsure about the products being durable or how to use them
- Most believe that sterilized suction tips and reusable materials are not as clean as disposable materials, and it is challenging to find them.
- About 1/3rd believe that these materials may increase the financial burden and may affect their established practice.
- Most disagree that implementing strict recycling waste management will be an extra burden
- Over 1/3rd are neutral to the comfort of using eco-friendly products over traditional products

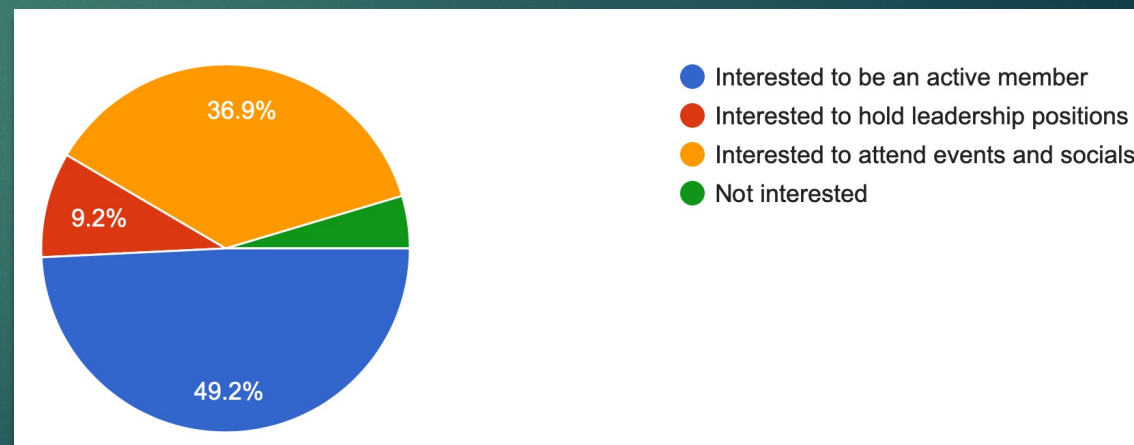


“The big reveal” – Survey results:

Future Interests

- Almost 95% believe that there needs to be a student led organization in the school to promote eco-friendly dentistry
- Over 3/4th of the respondents are interested in learning more about this topic via webinars, CDE and other social events

- About 50% are interested to be an active member in the organization



What Now?

- Understand the limitations of using non-traditional sustainable materials in the clinic and analyze the feasibility and experience
- Encourage developing a philosophy of practice to consciously mitigate the use of single use plastic and other dental waste by dentists and other dental professionals within the local dental community
- Broadcast and recruit more interested individuals to actively involve in emphasizing the importance
- Collaborate with sustainability programs in other dental schools





Let's save
the
planet!!!