



From Awareness to Competence: Advancing Interprofessional Collaboration in Dental Training

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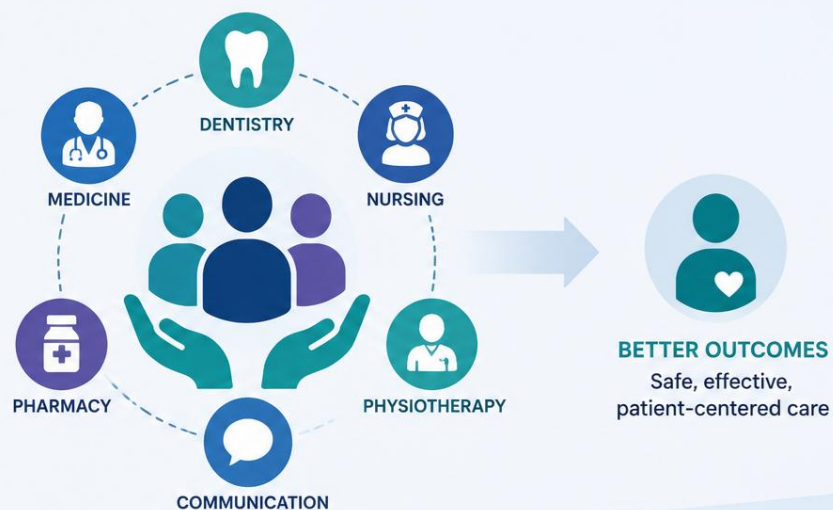
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Background

Interprofessional collaboration (IPC) is a key competency

for delivering safe, effective, and patient-centered care.



Although awareness among dental students is increasing,



translating this into practical competencies remains a challenge in dental education.





Aims and Objectives

This study aimed to evaluate students' perceptions and identify curricular needs for the development of collaborative competencies.



Materials and methods

METHODS



STUDY DESIGN

We conducted a **cross-sectional study** involving undergraduate dental students.



126

UNDERGRADUATE
DENTAL STUDENTS



DATA COLLECTION

Participants completed a structured questionnaire consisting of **20 items**.



QUESTIONNAIRE CONTENT

The questionnaire explored:

-  attitudes toward IPC
-  perceived importance
-  self-reported preparedness
-  willingness to engage in interdisciplinary collaboration



DATA ANALYSIS

The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.



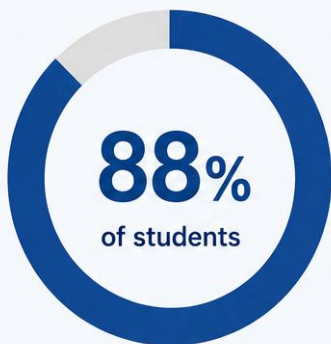


Results



Our findings demonstrated a strong positive attitude toward IPC.

- **88%** of students considered IPC **interesting or very interesting**.



IPC is engaging, relevant and valuable for my future practice.

- **More than 90%** regarded collaborative competencies as **essential** for dental practice.



Collaboration leads to **better care and outcomes** for patients.



High interest and recognition of the importance of IPC lay a strong foundation for developing future collaborative professionals.



Results

- **82%** believed IPC significantly improves clinical outcomes.



IPC leads to better clinical outcomes and patient care.

- **87%** expressed willingness to participate in interdisciplinary collaboration.



Students are ready to collaborate across disciplines.

- **58%** reported high confidence in their own collaborative competencies.



Less than two-thirds feel confident in their collaborative competencies.



A clear gap exists between awareness and practical preparedness.



HIGH AWARENESS
Students recognize the value and impact of IPC.



THE GAP



LOWER PRACTICAL PREPAREDNESS
Confidence in own collaborative competencies is still limited.

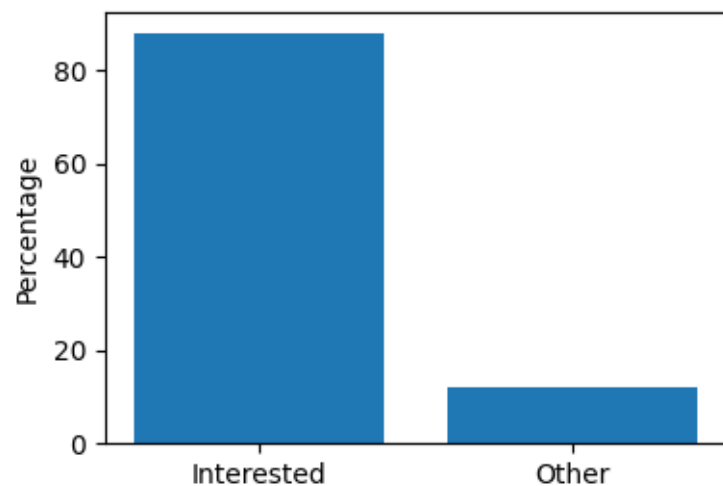


Bridging this gap through experiential learning and curricular integration is essential to develop competent, collaborative dental professionals.

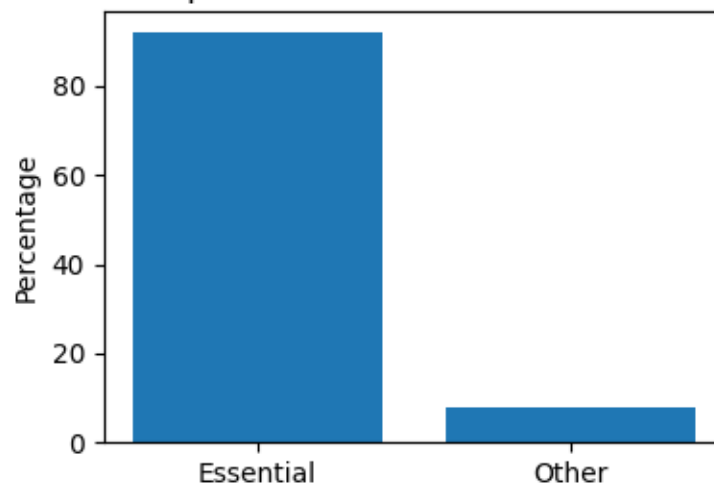


Results

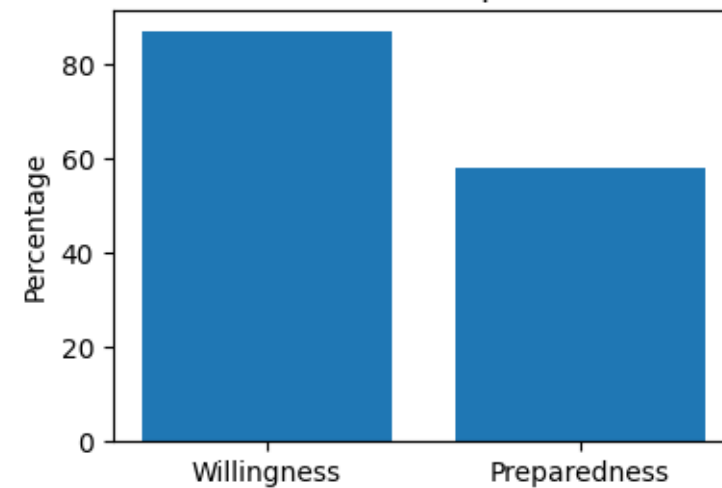
Interest in IPC



Importance of Collaborative Skills

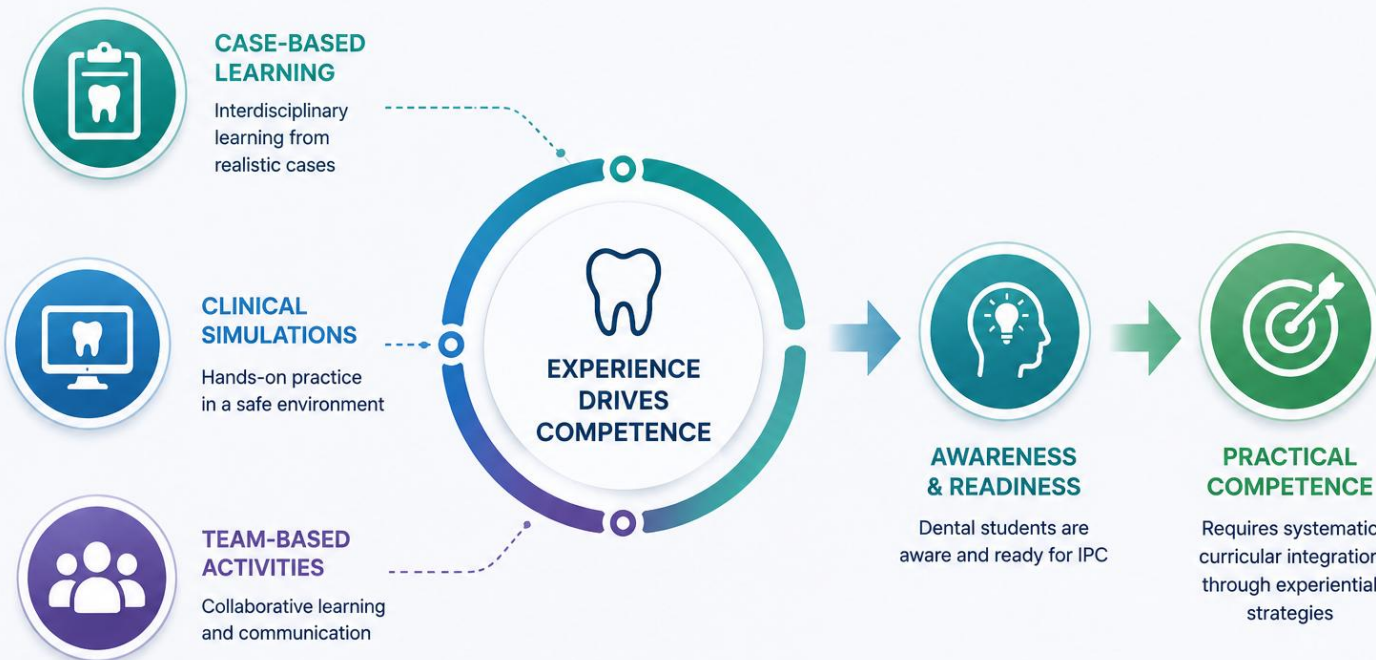


Awareness vs Preparedness





Discussion and conclusion



ALIGNED WITH EUROPEAN STANDARDS
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Thank you!

