



With Dr. Aneesah Dalvie



WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER?

I was aware of my passion and enthusiasm to help those in need from an early age.

This was driven by my own experience of severe tooth ache. This experience made me sympathetic to patients in pain and created a strong desire to treat and prevent future pain and sepsis. To achieve this, I strive to implement optimal oral hygiene education as well as to achieve a high level of dental care.

WHAT TRAINING DID YOU UNDERGO, AND WHERE?

I started my Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree at the University of the Western Cape. I started my first year in 2006 and qualified in 2010. Currently, I am completing a 2-year Post Graduate Diploma in Paediatric Dentistry.

DESCRIBE AN AVERAGE DAY?

To ensure all the patients have been screened and to attend to staff / patient enquiries or problems which may arise on the day. Treat patient's main complaints which are extractions, draining of abscess, treatment of dry sockets, emergency root canal treatment, and immediate denture treatment.

**Supervisor- Service Rendering
Tygerberg Oral Health Centre**



WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST?

The ability to alleviate pain and the subsequent appreciation from patients is what brings me the most gratification. Engaging with a diverse group of individuals with different cultures, races and backgrounds makes work enjoyable as it evokes tolerance and open mindedness as a clinician and an individual. Having the opportunity to educate parents on their child's dental hygiene at an early age brings me fulfillment, as I can make a difference.

3 IMPORTANT QUALITIES THAT YOUR POSITION REQUIRES?

Leadership skills: to have the ability to manage staff members in a fair and objective manner. **Patience:** It is important to possess patience with staff members as well as patients by being able to listen without interrupting. This will allow them to express themselves and gain insight to their main complaint and therefore find the best possible solution to any given problem.

Empathy: some patients don't always have access to dental care, therefore it is important to understand their circumstances and treat them in a sympathetic manner.

IN 1 SENTENCE, DESCRIBE YOUR JOB?

My job is to extract pain and restore happiness in order to keep people smiling.

EXPERIENCE VS TRAINING:

Experience brings about confidence that was absent during training. Confidence not only comforts the patient but also improves one's ability and skill.

ADVICE FOR GRADE 11 AND 12 LEARNERS CONSIDERING THIS CAREER?

Dentistry is not a glamorous profession. It requires dedication, sacrifice, and a strong sense of character that has passion towards fellow human beings.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME?

Language barrier, as not every patient is English or Afrikaans speaking. Therefore, getting important messages across can be a challenge. To manage and treat unco-operative children by means of desensitization methods can become daunting.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

National senior certificate: Maths, Physics Biology.

// It is important to make yourself more marketable as the dentistry industry is heavily saturated. Dentistry is constantly developing and improving //

DOES THE INDUSTRY (AND YOUR TYPE OF POSITION) THAT YOU ARE IN, FACE GENDER BIAS?

Yes, with regards to extractions, females are suspected of being 'weaker' which results in male patients requesting male dentists to treat them. Female dentists are also said to be gentler and more sympathetic to patients, therefore some patients will request to be seen by a female dentist. ■

