



GITAM DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, VISAKHAPATNAM



STUDENT HANDBOOK 2019-2020

INTRODUCTION

A noble objective of Gitam Society aimed at providing Quality Dental Education and Oral Health Care with a focus on Accessibility and Affordability, led to the conception of 'GITAM Dental College & Hospital' in north coastal Andhra Pradesh. GITAM Dental College & Hospital was established in the year 2001 with over 1,75,000 sft. of built up area and is the largest of its kind in Andhra Pradesh.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this handbook is to give students an overview on campus facilities, academic policies and standards of the dental profession, while studying at Gitam dental college & hospital, Visakhapatnam.

MISSION STATEMENT

Gitam dental college & hospital follows the Motto of Strive, Thrive & Serve, so that Students who complete the noble science of Dentistry are totally committed to patients and the public at large in rendering Ethical and Quality dental care and treatment.

CORE VALUES

Gitam dental college & hospital, Visakhapatnam fosters Core Values in students like truthfulness, respect, commitment and compassion. It is around these values that students are expected to build their professional lives in a peaceful and learning environment, during their period of stay at Gitam campus in Visakhapatnam. Also, it will promote clinical excellence and service to the dental profession.

REVISED HIPPOCRATIC OATH FOR DENTISTS

"I swear to fulfil, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

I will apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures [that] are required, avoiding those twin traps of overtreatment and therapeutic nihilism.

I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or the chemist's drug.

I will not be ashamed to say "I know not," nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery.

I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know.

Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. If it is given me to save a life, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to take a life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty.

Above all, I must not play at God.

I will remember that I do not treat a fever chart, a cancerous growth, but a sick human being, whose illness may affect the person's family and economic stability. My responsibility includes these related problems, if I am to care adequately for the sick.

I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure.

I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those sound of mind and body as well as the infirm.

If I do not violate this oath, may I enjoy life and art, respected while I live and remembered with affection thereafter.

May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help."

CAMPUS FACILITIES

MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC

The department of Public Health Dentistry of Gitam dental college & hospital has a well equipped Dental Van for conducting Community Dental camps in and around Visakhapatnam district. The mobile Dental Van is inbuilt with a complete dental clinic consisting of a Dental chair, Air compressor and the latest dental instruments. The complete screening and treatment of patients in different urban as well as rural areas is done in the mobile Dental clinic.

STUDENT LIBRARY

The Library provides a peaceful and reflective environment to the Students for Individual study, Group study as well as Research activities. The Library of Gitam dental college & hospital has a seating capacity for more than 250 students and is equipped with the latest learning resources. It has as many as 3822 Print Textbooks and 46 Journals titles in both National and International Journals.

DIGITAL LIBRARY- COMPUTER RESOURCES

A separate Digital Library with Internet facility is available in Gitam dental college & hospital for the students who require Online resources for study or research purposes. The students

can avail Online e- resources like EBSCO Information services through NTR University of Health Sciences MEDNET Consortium.

MOTHER TERESA AUDITORIUM

There is a World Class State –Of-The- Art Mother Teresa Auditorium for the benefit of the students in Gitam dental college & hospital, Visakhapatnam. This Auditorium is used for conducting National and International Seminars, Workshops, Convocation ceremonies and also, a variety of cultural programs throughout the year.

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE CENTRE (KRC)

The students of Gitam dental college & hospital have access to the Knowledge Resource Centre (KRC), a Central Library located in the campus of Gitam university. The KRC is centrally located at the heart of the Gitam University. The KRC is a five storied air conditioned complex with CCTV surveillance system. It has many student learning resources including books, journals, periodicals and a digital library. The other facilities are an air conditioned auditorium with a seating capacity for 200 guests and an annexe for hosting meetings with a capacity of 500 guests. The KRC also hosts student training and placement events, student group discussions, product demos and book exhibitions.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL STORES

Gitam dental college & hospital has an exclusive medical & surgical store in its main building complex that has all the basic medications, surgical items and emergency drug requirements for the use of Patients, Students, Faculty and Staff during working hours on all working days.

STUDENT CANTEENS

There are three large canteens in Gitam University which serve quality food at subsidized rates to students. The students can have their food at these canteens, all of them at easy walking distance from the buildings of Gitam dental college & hospital.

STUDENT STORES

There are two stores for the benefit of the students in Gitam dental college & hospital. The Main store supplies all kinds of dental consumables and non- consumables for use in the dental clinics. The subsidiary store provides note books, record books and stationary.

STUDENT LOCKERS

All the students who are admitted to Gitam dental college & hospital are provided individual student lockers, to store their dental instruments safely, in the campus.

STUDENT HOSTELS

Gitam dental college & hospital has separate hostel facility for both boys and girls that are supervised by wardens, in its campus at Visakhapatnam. The hostels are well maintained with Internet facility, separate canteen facility and 24 hrs security. There is separate accommodation for post graduate students in the campus.

SPORTS FACILITIES

The students of Gitam dental college & hospital can use various sports facilities in the campus. There are playgrounds where students can play Foot ball, Volley ball and Tennis. There is an Indoor stadium where students can play indoor games as well exercise in the fully equipped Gymnasium, maintained by a qualified Physical instructor. There are also facilities for students to play indoor games in the respective hostels. There is an exclusive world class cricket stadium for students who are interested in playing cricket in the campus.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Gitam dental college & hospital provides ample opportunities to students to pursue their creativity and expression in a variety of disciplines like arts, literature, music, and dance. A cultural festival is organized every year in the campus for students to showcase their creative talents in singing, dancing and a variety of literary and cultural programs.

BANKING FACILITIES

The students of Gitam dental college & hospital can avail their banking needs at Union Bank of India branch with an ATM Centre located inside the campus.

CENTRAL WORKSHOP

Gitam dental college & hospital has a Central work shop and an exclusive dental maintenance department that is managed by trained Dental Technicians who caters to the needs of the institute.

24 HOUR POWER SUPPLY

Gitam dental college & hospital has an exclusive Electrical Substation & Generator that provides HT supply from EPDCL. In case of any power failure, a 315 KVA generator is available, that provides 24 hours power supply to the Institute.

CENTRAL GAS SUPPLY

Gitam dental college & hospital has a central gas supply that is available in the Dental laboratories, while individual gas supply is provided at the service laboratories for the benefit of the students who can complete their lab/clinical assignments.

OTHER FACILITIES

The students of Gitam dental college & hospital have access to Discount Book Stores, Post Office and Telephone Exchange in the Campus of Gitam University.

FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is a very important requirement for dealing with any kind of emergency related to fire accidents. There is provision for Fire safety in Gitam dental college & hospital. There are Emergency exits that are present in every floor of the dental college buildings. Also, each floor is equipped with upgraded fire extinguishers, for emergency use in case in case of any fire accident.

EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

The students of Gitam dental college & hospital can avail any kind of Emergency health services free of cost, at any time round the clock at Gitam Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Gitam University, Visakhapatnam.

STUDENT HEALTH- IMMUNIZATIONS

Each student who is admitted to Gitam dental college & hospital gets free of charge immunization for protection from infectious and communicable diseases like Hepatitis B. The Hepatitis B vaccine is administered in 4 separate doses during their period of study in Gitam dental college & hospital, Visakhapatnam.

VEHICLE PARKING

Gitam dental college & hospital has a vast campus with a lot of space for parking. The students can park their two wheelers inside the campus. However, the students who have cars are allowed to park them outside the main campus.

CAMPUS SAFETY

The students of Gitam dental college & hospital who prefer to stay in the college hostels are assured of 24 hours Safety in the campus. Gitam dental college & hospital has complete Security in its campus, through the presence of Security guards and Security officers who work round the clock, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS)

The students can enrol themselves as youth volunteers in the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Gitam dental college & hospital, Visakhapatnam. The NSS is a central sector scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. It provides opportunities for

students of Graduate and Post graduate colleges to take part in various Government led community service activities and programs. The sole aim of the NSS is to provide hands-on experience to young students in community service.

NSS LOGO

All the students who enrol themselves as youth volunteers in the NSS led community service will wear the NSS badge with pride and a sense of responsibility, towards helping the needy. The Konark wheel in the NSS badge has 8 bars and signifies 24 hours of the day. This reminds the wearer to be ready for the service of the Nation 24 hours a day, round the clock. The Red colour in the badge signifies energy and spirit displayed by the NSS volunteers. The Blue colour signifies the cosmos of which the NSS is a small part, ready to contribute its share for the welfare of the mankind.

MOTTO OF THE NSS- NOT ME BUT YOU

A NSS volunteer who takes part in community service programme would be an active member and would have exposure and experience to be an accomplished social leader or an efficient administrator.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE NSS

1) National Integration Camp (NIC)

The National Integration Camp (NIC) is organized every year. The duration of each camp is 7 days, with facilities for day-night boarding and lodging. These camps are held in different parts of India. Each camp involves 200 NSS volunteers who take part in the scheduled activities.

2) Adventure Program

These camps are held every year and are attended by approximately 1500 NSS volunteers. At least 50 % of these NSS volunteers are girl students. These camps are conducted in the Himalayan region in North India and Arunachal Pradesh in North East region. The adventure activities undertaken in these camps include Mountain trekking, Water rafting, Para-sailing and Skiing.

3) NSS REPUBLIC DAY PARADE CAMP

The Republic day camp of NSS volunteers takes place in Delhi between the 1st and 31st January every year with 200 selected NSS volunteers. The best NSS volunteers are selected, who are good in maintaining discipline, performing march-past and participating in cultural activities. A contingent of selected NSS volunteers participate in the Republic day parade held at Rajpath, New Delhi on 26th January every year. This Republic day parade is held in

accordance with the guidelines and requisition of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

4) NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVALS

These festivals are organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India in collaboration with the different State Governments. The National Youth festivals are held every year from the 12th to 16th January in different parts of the country.

The highlight of the National Youth festivals is the presence of Eminent guests, Speakers and Youth icons, who are invited to address and interact with 1500 participating NSS volunteers.

ANTI RAGGING POLICY

Gitam dental college & hospital exhibits Zero tolerance towards Ragging. Ragging of any kind or indecent behaviour that may lead to verbal abuse, physical abuse or mental abuse is totally prohibited in the campus, as per Act 26 of A.P Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1997.

The students who are found guilty of Ragging in Gitam dental college & hospital may have to face serious consequences like

- heavy fines
- loss of academic privileges
- withholding of scholarships/fellowships/other benefits
- debarring from tests/examinations
- withholding of examination results
- suspension/expulsion from hostels
- cancellation of admission
- suspension or dismissal from Gitam dental college & hospital

The students are advised to contact the Anti-Ragging Committee of Gitam dental college & hospital consisting of senior Professors and Administrative Staff, for quickly addressing any complaints related to Ragging.

ANTI DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Gitam dental college & hospital totally condemns discrimination of any kind on its campus. The institution gives equal respect to all its Faculty, Staff and Students and enables learning

and working in a peaceful environment. Gitam dental college & hospital totally prohibits discrimination with regard to age, colour, sex, disability, race, religion or nationality and ensures equal access to rights, privileges and opportunities.

ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Gitam dental college & hospital believes that a positive and productive relationship with the parents or guardians is essential for the student's successful completion of their chosen dental course. Gitam dental college & hospital promotes mutual respect, open communication and a shared vision to ensure a healthy and productive experience for everyone.

It is important that parents and guardians understand and support the school's rules, policies, procedures, and culture. The parents and guardians are requested to support their children in abiding by the rules laid out in this Student Handbook.

ADMISSIONS

Gitam dental college & hospital, Visakhapatnam is affiliated to Dr N.T.R University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada. The policies for admission of students to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (B.D.S) course as well as Master of Dental Surgery (M.D.S) course can be found online at <http://ntruhs.ap.nic.in>

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM -BDS & MDS COURSES

Gitam dental college & hospital offers an integrated academic curriculum comprising of both Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) courses and Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) courses. These courses are designed to develop the skills and competencies of students by combining class room lectures with hands-on modes of teaching, so that students can gain real time experience in treating patients in the dental clinics.

The Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) course is offered in Gitam dental college & hospital, with the affiliation of Dr NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada and approval by the Dental Council of India (DCI). The B.D.S course for students is of 5-years duration, which includes 4 years of full time study and 1 year of compulsory rotating internship. The B.D.S course has an integration of basic sciences, pre-clinical sciences and clinical sciences.

The Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) courses are also offered in Gitam dental college & hospital, with affiliation to Dr NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada and approval by the Dental Council of India (DCI). The M.D.S course offered for students is a 3 year postgraduate degree in Dentistry, in the chosen area of specialization. The MDS course provides aspirants with training in different disciplines of dentistry like Oral Medicine and Radiology, Oral Pathology, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Pedodontics, Orthodontics,

Periodontics, Prosthodontics and Conservative Dentistry. The M.D.S course is designed to further improve the clinical skills, research skills as well as critical analysis of students in their chosen specialty of Dentistry.

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The students of Gitam dental college & hospital are required to have a minimum of 75% attendance in both theory as well as practical classes. The students should attend all scheduled lectures, laboratory and clinical postings, with exceptions only in the case of illness or emergency. The students are advised to aim for a 100 % attendance, which can improve their performance assessment in any particular academic year.

EXAMINATIONS AND ALLOTMENT OF MARKS

Gitam dental college & hospital is affiliated to NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada. The annual examinations are conducted in June/July every year. The students have to secure a minimum of 50% of the total marks in any subject separately, that includes theory (written exam), viva voce, Internal assessment and practicals (clinical exam), for securing a pass in all years of study.

MEDICAL LEAVE

Gitam dental college & hospital is committed to supporting the overall health and wellness of its students. There are times when students may miss Classes due to illness or any other Health issues. The students must communicate this information to the Management and request Medical leave by submitting appropriate Medical Certificate from a qualified Doctor.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

The best outgoing students of Gitam dental college & hospital in each year of the BDS and MDS courses and the class toppers are awarded special prizes at the Convocation ceremony each year.

DRESS CODE

All the students who are admitted to Gitam dental college & hospital have to follow the below rules to maintain professional etiquette in the campus.

1. Dental Aprons must be worn compulsorily, while working in the dental clinics only
2. The students should use Facemasks, Surgical gloves, Surgical gowns and Head caps compulsorily, while examining, treating or performing surgical procedures on patients in the dental clinics
3. Dental Aprons must not be worn in non-clinical areas like classrooms, seminar rooms, libraries, offices, corridors, or canteens
4. The students must always wear their Name identification badges at all times, while in the campus

5. The students should always wear clean shoes, with socks fully covering the legs, while performing clinical procedures on patients in the dental clinics

PERSONAL GROOMING

All the students who are admitted to Gitam dental college & hospital are required to follow the below rules in ensuring present ability in the campus.

1. Personal and Oral hygiene must always be maintained
2. Fingernails must be cut regularly
3. Boys must clean shave everyday
4. Hair should be clean and should be of medium length only
5. Dental Aprons must be neat and well maintained

STUDENT COUNSELING

Gitam dental college & hospital offers Student counselling through a highly individualized counselling process. The Goal of Student Counselling is to nurture and develop the overall personalities of students.

The main objectives of Student Counselling are;

- To motivate the Students for better performance
- To improve enthusiasm, confidence and self esteem
- To develop the attitude of positive thinking and optimism
- To aid students in the process of decision making for their aspiring careers
- To facilitate the academic, intellectual, psychological and personal growth of students
- To help students in dealing with issues like Stress management
- To empower students with the knowledge and clinical expertise to be successful dental professionals
- To teach students that a work-life balance is essential for success and well being

STUDENT CLASSROOM BEHAVIOUR

The students of Gitam dental college & hospital are expected to maintain good classroom decorum while in the campus.

The ideal classroom behaviours include;

- Take responsibility for personal behaviour
- Have concern and respect for Faculty, Staff and other students
- Be attentive in listening and understanding the lectures of Faculty
- Complete all class room assignments on time, as advised by Faculty

- Never indulge in disrespectful behaviours like talking, sleeping, using cell phone or reading of non class related material during class room hours
- Be organized and manage study time in campus effectively
-

GENERAL STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

Gitam dental college & hospital promotes positive attitude and expects good and decent behaviour from students while on campus.

The students are expected to maintain the dignity of the dental profession and abide by the below behaviours;

- Honesty and integrity, which are very essential in dental education and enable the students to mature into true professionals
- Respect for Faculty and Staff
- Friendship and Trust in fellow students
- Maintaining punctuality in attending both theory as well as practical classes
- Refraining from any kind of discrimination of patients on the basis of colour, race, nationality, ethnicity, gender or disability
- Treating patients in a gentle and courteous manner
- Maintaining the confidentiality of patient information

STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

1) Professional Etiquette -Attire and Grooming

The profession of Dentistry requires students to be well dressed and be Presentable, as the first impression creates a lasting impact on the patients. The students are expected to be dignified in their outlook and style of dressing. They should always wear neat and well maintained clothes while on campus. The shoes must be clean and well polished. The male students are not allowed to grow beards and must clean shave daily. The finger nails must be cut short regularly. All the students must compulsorily wear the Clinical Apron, while posted in the Dental clinics or Laboratories of Gitam dental college & hospital.

2) Punctuality and Honesty

The students are expected to be punctual and honest with regard to their allotted assignments, examinations, research studies as well as dental care of patients, while in the campus.

3) Reliability

The students are expected to fulfil the course objectives in Dentistry, whether it be B.D.S (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) or M.D.S (Master of Dental Surgery) by completing prescribed tests and assignments on time and also participating in seminars, journal clubs, workshops and other scheduled programmes or assigned tasks during class/clinical hours, while in the campus.

4) Responsibility and Commitment

The students are expected to be responsible for their actions by behaving in a mature and professional manner at all times, while in the campus. The students should always be respectful of towards the Faculty and Staff of Gitam dental college & hospital. The students should work in a committed manner during all classroom sessions, clinical training programs and show genuine, empathetic care when treating patients in the dental clinics.

5) Confidentiality of patient information

The students are expected to maintain total confidentiality of the patient information contained in the dental records (patient case sheets). The dental records are used in the dental clinics for patient examination and contain vital patient information. The personal information of the patients should be protected as per HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) first established in the U.S.A.

6) Accountability for personal well being

The students are responsible for their own personal well being that includes their physical and mental health, while pursuing their chosen professional course in Dentistry at Gitam dental college & hospital. The students are expected to have good judgement and maintain a decent professional behaviour at all times.

7) Communication with patients

The students are expected to have good communication skills with regard to the care and treatment of patients. This is possible only, if the students master the art of communication, which is very important in rendering good patient care in the dental clinics of Gitam dental college & hospital.

Important aspects of Dentist- Patient communication are given below;

- 1) Firstly, students have to greet the patients with a friendly smile
- 2) The students have to address the patients with respect using prefixes like Mr or Mrs before calling out their names
- 3) The students have to maintain eye level contact while talking to the Patients either in English or the local language
- 4) The students have to always listen to the patient's concerns with attention
- 5) The students have to always take permission before examining a patient
- 6) The students have to properly respond to the patient's dental problems, after understanding their health concerns

7) The patients judge the students who are treating them based on the manner they interact with them. Hence, the students have to adjust their style of communication based on the needs of the patients

8) The students have to develop their “ Soft Skills” of patient communication, in addition to their theoretical knowledge and clinical skills.

The main soft skills of patient communication include;

- being caring and empathetic towards the patients
- treating the patients with dignity and respect
- Explaining all the available dental treatment options to the patients and getting them involved in their treatment planning
- Giving correct information on treatment charges of specific dental procedures
- Rendering good dental treatment in a time bound manner

The benefits of good Dentist- Patient communication are given below;

1) When the students are able to communicate well with the patients, it increases patient satisfaction

2) When the patients are able to get good dental care and treatment due to improved Dentist- Patient communication, it increases the degree of trust placed on the students

3) When there is better Dentist- Patient communication, it improves patient retention and hence, more number of patients would revisit Gitam dental college & hospital

4) When the patients have a positive experience regarding their dental treatment, they will surely refer their family members and friends to visit the dental clinics in Gitam dental college & hospital

5) When there is an increase in the number of new patients who come for dental treatment to Gitam dental college & hospital, it will build the reputation and enhance the brand image of the institution

CODE OF ETHICS

Ethics is a set of moral principles that determine human behaviour and good conduct. In the noble profession of Dentistry, following the Code of Ethics is even more important. Each student is expected to work with sincerity, honesty and commitment in Gitam dental college & hospital. The Faculty are ethically responsible to abide by and promote this Code of Conduct.

It is the moral responsibility of the students to abide by the Code of Ethics, which is given below;

- I will always be respectful with the Faculty and Management staff
- I will have a kind, caring and compassionate attitude towards the patients
- I will always follow moral principles and be disciplined while on campus
- I will always be friendly with fellow students
- I will avoid cheating and plagiarism during professional examinations conducted in the college
- I will respect patient rights and safeguard confidentiality of patient information
- I will be regular in maintaining my attendance for both theory as well as practical classes everyday
- I will report any unethical behaviour if noticed, to the concerned Faculty

I am aware of the moral and professional standards that have to be met, as I enter the noble profession of Dentistry. My signature indicates that I agree to abide by all the provisions of this Code of Conduct.

Signature

Date

Printed name

Roll no of Student

VIOLATION OF STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The following behaviours constitute a violation of the Code of Conduct in Gitam dental college & hospital.

1) Unprofessional or inappropriate behaviour

A conduct that includes but is not limited to abusive comments/threats (written, verbal or physical), intimidation or harassment with respect to patients, fellow Students, Seniors, Faculty or Staff.

2) Professional dishonesty

A dishonesty that includes but is not limited to cheating during examinations, not submitting class assignments regularly within allocated time and dishonesty regarding wrong or improper treatment of patients.

3) Improper patients appointments

A conduct that involves unnecessary rescheduling (changing) of patient appointments causing a lot of inconvenience and wastage of time to patients, without intimation to the concerned Faculty.

4) Charges of Plagiarism

A conduct that involves copying of information obtained from various sources without giving due credit or appropriate acknowledgement for use during submission of projects,

assignments, tests or exams. This is strictly discouraged and prohibited during the entire tenure of the B.D.S course and M.D.S course in Gitam dental college & hospital.

5) Failure to protect privacy of patient information

A conduct that involves failure to safeguard Patient Confidentiality (important and personal patient information in dental records) as per the guidelines of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA).

6) Unsafe dental care to patients

A conduct that involves administration of improper patient care without sufficient skill or Faculty supervision and without taking precautions for the safety of patients, which may endanger their health or well being.

DENTIST -PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

The relationship between the dentists and the patients determines the effectiveness of the dental care and treatment offered to the patients. The dentist and patient relationship is a very important aspect of the profession of Dentistry. The students will get trained thoroughly in all aspects of the dentist and patient relationship, during the study of their professional course at Gitam dental college & hospital.

The primary concern of the dental profession is to serve the patients. The students have to understand the dental care needs of the patients before they can treat their ailments. In this regard, the students have to understand the rights of the patients.

PATIENTS RIGHTS

- 1) To receive ethical and quality oral health care in a healthy and safe environment
- 2) To receive dental care with dignity, respect and compassion
- 3) The right to complete information on dental health status and suggested treatment plan
- 4) The right to participate in decision-making process through Informed consent, before starting any treatment
- 5) The right to protection of privacy of personal information

PATIENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) To be co-operative and understanding with the student Dentists or Faculty
- 2) To provide complete and accurate health information to the attending student Dentists or Faculty

3) To return Dental records (patient case sheets) after completion of the day's treatment in the dental clinics

4) To maintain the schedule for revisit or appointment, given by student Dentists or Faculty

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF DENTISTS

1) Should always maintain integrity and professionalism

2) Give first priority to the safety and health of the patients

3) Respect the rights of patients

4) Talk politely and be attentive to the patient's feelings, when assessing their dental needs

5) Communicate effectively with the patients in a language they understand

6) Recognize the need for dentists to provide appropriate and cost effective oral health care to all members of the community

7) Acknowledge the effectiveness as well as the limits of providing personalized oral health care and treatment to patients

8) Be sensitive to patients with special needs

9) Endeavour to maintain an atmosphere of honesty and trust, when treating patients

10) Know how to manage apprehensive patients, in a tactful and congenial manner

11) Understand the medico- legal aspects of providing oral health care to patients

12) Accept responsibility for safeguarding personal oral health

COMMUNITY DENTAL CAMPS

Gitam dental college & hospital conducts Health check up and Dental screening and treatment camps in and around Visakhapatnam City and in the nearby villages every week. It is mandatory for the students to participate in these Community Dental camps so that they gain valuable experience in understating the dental problems of the public, as well as gaining training in dental treatment, under the guidance of the Faculty.

The department of Public Health Dentistry of Gitam dental college & hospital has a well equipped Dental Van for conducting Community Dental camps in and around the City of Visakhapatnam. The mobile Dental Van is inbuilt with a complete dental unit consisting of a Dental chair, Air compressor and the latest dental instruments. The complete screening and treatment of patients in different urban as well as rural areas is done in the mobile Dental Van.

STUDENT FEST & COLLEGE DAY

Gitam dental college & hospital conducts a College day and a Student fest in the months of Sept-Oct every year. The idea in conducting these annual celebrations is to bolster the enthusiasm and nurture the creativity of young dental students. Gitam dental college & hospital believes that the development of a complete personality of any student is not just shaping academic brilliance, but also fostering skills in showcasing Art, Literary and Cultural programmes. The students learn about team building, being resourceful and the spirit of enterprise with shared goals, attitudes and values.

The College day celebrations are a defining moment in the history of Gitam dental college & hospital, even since its conception in 2001. These celebrations are conducted in the sprawling green campus of Gitam dental college & hospital, a part of Gitam University campus in the City of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

The College day is a Cultural Extravaganza and is organized splendidly with a wide array of scintillating programs that include music, songs, dance sequences, skits and other impressive performances by students. The winners are awarded Certificates of Appreciation and Prizes from the management of Gitam dental college & hospital.

The Student Fest has a variety of Visual Arts, Literary Arts and Cultural programs that are organized for more than a month, in which all the students are encouraged to participate and showcase their diverse and varied talents. The culmination of the Student Fest is the Food & Games Carnival. A complete day is dedicated to the Food & Games Carnival, in which the students are given a chance to hone their culinary skills by cooking a variety of mouth watering food items and also, conduct several game shows in beautifully erected stalls. There is live music and a fun filled atmosphere, in which all the students enjoy wholeheartedly.

SHARAD GITAM 2019

The annual dental fest followed by a college day is conducted in the months of September-October to coincide with the autumn season or Sharad Ritu. Sharad Ritu is one of the six Indian seasons during which the hot and humid weather begins to recede and marks the beginning of the festive season as per the Indian Calendar. This season is chosen for the fest to as the festive atmosphere brings in more cheer and enthusiasm thereby making the celebrations even more special. Thereby, the name given to the fest in 2019, Sharad GITAM 2019 was apt.

Sports Competitions were conducted for both indoor and outdoor games and sports with equal participation from both genders. The college was divided into 6 to 7 teams based on the joining students' academic year, both for undergraduates as well as the postgraduate students. The Faculty also participated in the sports with their own teams. The sports and games conducted were Volleyball, Throw ball, Basketball, Cricket, Tug of War, Kho-kho, Table Tennis, Badminton, Carroms and Chess. The Cultural competitions included fine arts such as painting, singing, dancing, rangoli, mehendi and contemporary contests such as Best out of Waste, Splash, Collage, Cooking without Gas to name a few.

The College day celebrations were conducted on 31-10-2019 and Dr.P.V.Sudhakar, Principal of Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam was the chief Guest for the event. The honourable President of Gitam University, Mr. M. Sri Bharat, graced the occasion. The students and the staff alike enthralled the audience with a wide range of programmes which included singing, dance performances, skits, talent shows of playing musical instruments, painting etc. A fashion show which showcased Khadi, Kanjeevaram and Indo-western wear designed by the dental college students themselves, was an added attraction!

The winners of all the sports and cultural events were awarded certificates of appreciation as well as medals by the college management. The fest ended on a high note on 1-11-19 with a carnival where students exhibited their entrepreneurial and management skills together with their culinary expertise, by putting up various stalls. The students also sold handmade jewellery and other souvenirs. A quotient of fun and frolic was added with music, games stalls and photo booths.