

# Challenges of Dental Education in Libya

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**Abstract:** Dental education in Libya had started in the mid-seventies of the last century by the establishment of faculty of dentistry in Benghazi University. The first class graduated in 1979; they were 24 dentists. Now the number of dental graduates is approaching 20,000 dentists from more than 18 dental schools; private and governmental. Serious questions are raised among the dental community and the dental educators about the dilemmas that face both the dental education and profession; is the quality of dental education provided by the dental schools in Libya good enough to endow the graduates with the knowledge, clinical and professional skills that enable them to face the real life practice. Is the quality of dental education provided meets the international benchmarks? Is there a real need for this number of dental schools in Libya? The Purpose of this presentation is to critically evaluate the current status of dental education in Libya and to have close insight view of the challenges that face this form of education and some recommendations will be offered to raise the level of dental education in the country.