

# SEDA Autumn Conference 2024



**Session Title:** Racial Inclusivity in Education

**Session Type:** Lightning Talks (10 minutes)

**Main presenter(s):** Bhavin Dedhia, University of Portsmouth

**Co presenter(s):** N/A

**Session Summary:** The session will aim to discuss concept of racial inclusivity and decolonising in context of healthcare education

**Session Outline:** This study explores the integration of unconscious bias and cultural competence training into the spiral curriculum of undergraduate dental schools, emphasising the need to address potential discrimination against minority students within a predominantly "white-centric" educational framework. Previous research has identified attainment gaps among minority students in health schools, highlighting the importance of incorporating decolonization in a psychosocial context to promote racial equity in higher education. Method: This is a qualitative study that consisted of semi-structured interviews of students at a dental academy.. Results: There were five themes noted around inclusivity. While direct discrimination was not overtly observed, a lack of an inclusive approach was identified as disadvantageous to students from minority backgrounds. The discussion underscores the necessity of a more mindful implementation of institutional measures to prevent inequity and disenfranchisement. Discussion: Although there are measures placed in institutions to avoid inequity or disenfranchising of students of minority backgrounds, they should be followed through with a more mindful approach.

**References:** Kadiyo, T. M. (2021). Black Lives Matter: the impact and lessons for the UK Dental Profession. *British Dental Journal*, 134-142.

Mgqwashy E. (2016). Universities can't decolonise the curriculum without defining it first. *The Conversation*.

Public Health England. (2018). *Local action on health inequalities: Understanding and reducing ethnic inequalities in Health*.

General Dental Council (n.d.). *Standards for the Dental Team*.

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Mukwende (2020), *Mind the Gap: A Handbook of Clinical Signs on Black and Brown Skin*

Tiwari et al (2019), An Adapted Framework for Incorporating the Social Determinants OF Health into Predoctoral Dental Curricula, Journal of Dental Education, 127-136

