Principal Features of Dental Ethics

The fundamental values of dental ethics

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The Fundamental Values Of Dental Ethics

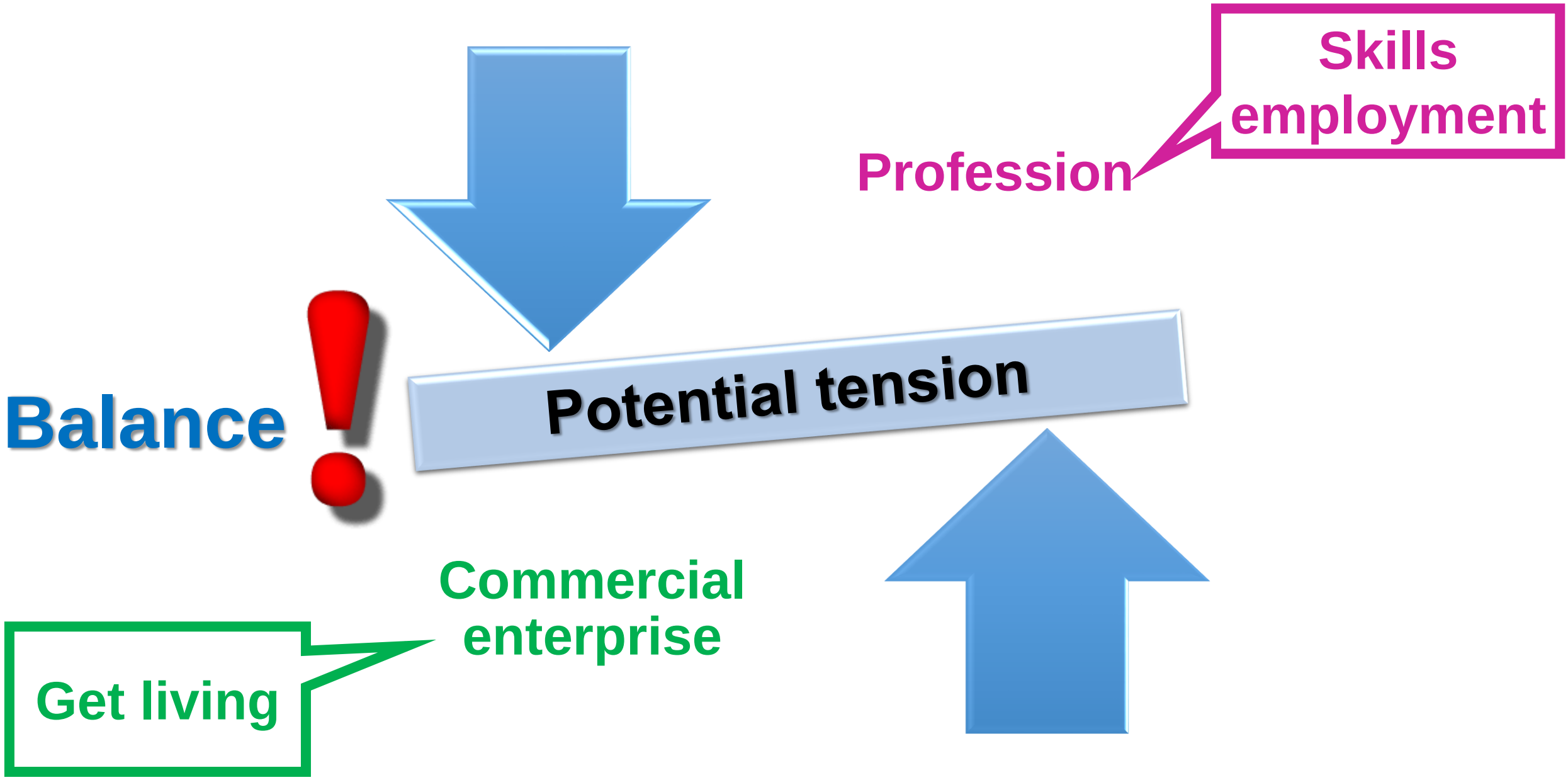
- ✓ Dentistry is a recognized profession. At the same time, it is a commercial enterprise (مؤسسة تجارية), whereby dentists employ their skills to get a living.
- ✓ There is a potential tension between these two aspects of dentistry and maintaining an appropriate balance between them is often difficult.

The Fundamental Values Of Dental Ethics

- ✓ Dentists should keep this balance to fulfill the requirement of the FDI International Principles of Ethics for the Dental Profession that:

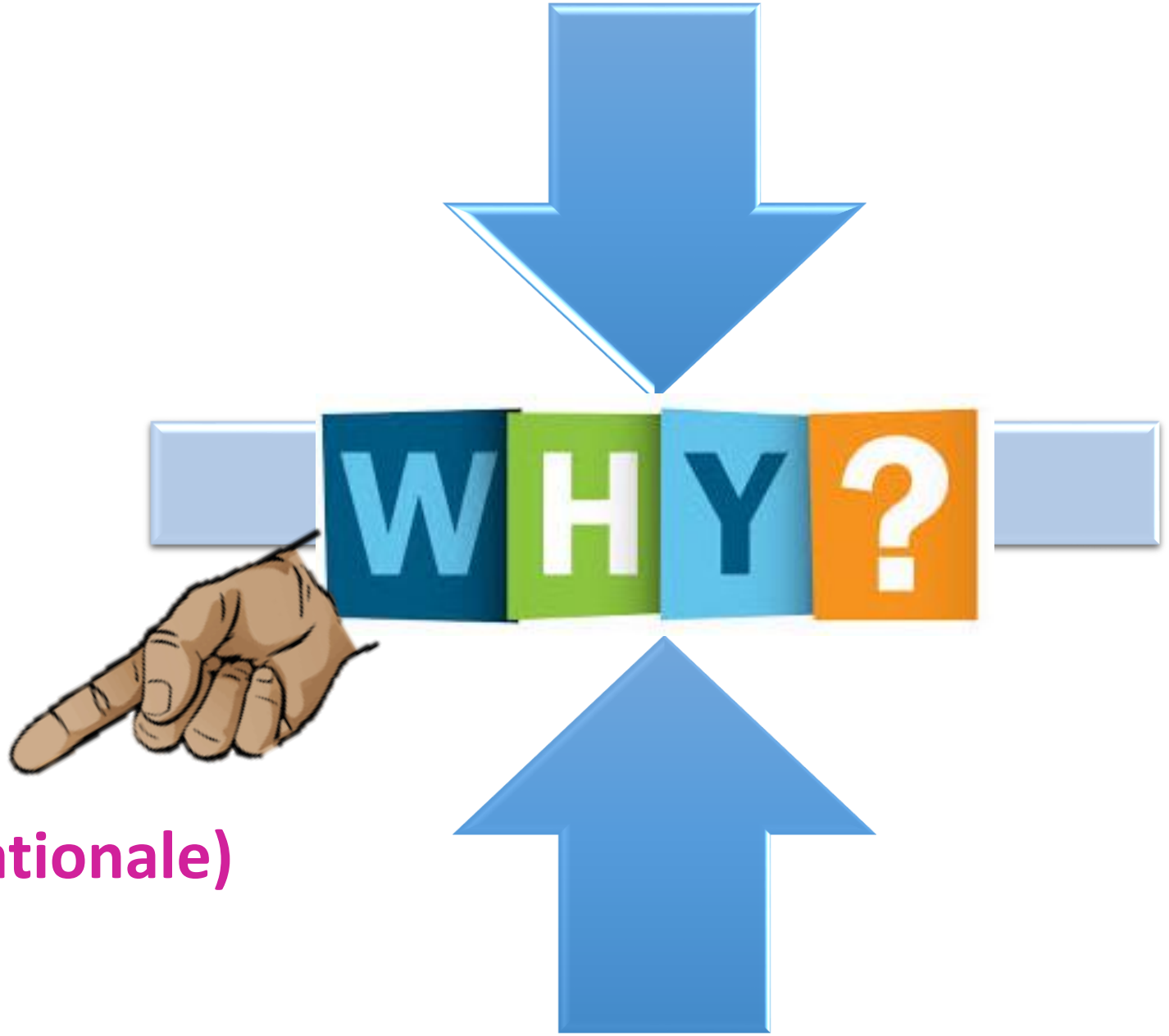
  “The dentist should act in a manner which will enhance the prestige and reputation of the profession”.

The Fundamental Values Of Dental Ethics



The Fundamental Values Of Dental Ethics





FDI

(Fédération dentaire internationale)

The Fundamental Values Of Dental Ethics

“The dentist should act in a manner which will enhance the prestige and reputation of the profession”

The Fundamental Values Of Dental Ethics

- ✓ Despite these challenges, dentistry continues to be a profession that is highly valued by the people who need its services. It also continues to attract large numbers of the most hard working and dedicated students. In order to meet the expectations of patients and the general public, it is important that dentists know and demonstrate the core values of dentistry, especially compassion, competence and autonomy.

The Fundamental Values Of Dental Ethics

✓ **The fundamental (core) values of dental ethics**:

1. Compassion
2. Competence
3. Autonomy

Compassion (التعاطف)

- ✓ Defined as: understanding and concern for another person's distress, is essential for the practice of dentistry.
- ✓ In order to deal with the patient's problems, the dentist must identify the symptoms that the patient is experiencing and their underlying causes and must want to help the patient achieve relief.
- ✓ Patients respond better to treatment if they perceive that the dentist appreciates their concerns and is treating them rather than just their illness

(يستجيب المرضى بشكل أفضل للعلاج إذا أدركوا أن طبيب الأسنان يقدر مخاوفهم ويعالجهم بدلاً من علاج مرضهم فقط)

Compassion (التعاطف)

Compassion: understanding and concern for another person's distress

Dealing with the problems

Patience
Desire to help
Identify the symptoms
Underlying causes
Achieve relief

Compassion (التعاطف)

Compassion: understanding and concern for another person's distress

Just illness



Illness & Patient concerns

Respond to treatment



Competence (كفاءة)

- ✓ A very high degree of competence is both expected and required of dentists. A lack of competence can have serious consequences for patients.
- ✓ Dentists undergo a long training period to ensure competence, but considering the rapid advance of dental knowledge, it is a continual challenge for them to maintain their competence.
- ✓ Moreover, it is not just their scientific knowledge and technical skills that they have to develop and maintain but their ethical knowledge, skills and attitudes as well, since new ethical issues arise with changes in dental practice.

Competence (كفاءة)

What is expected and required ?

High degree of competence

Already long training period !

Rapid advance of dental knowledge

SO

A lack of competence

Then

CME, CPD

Scientific knowledge and technical skills only ?

Ethical knowledge, skills and attitudes

Why

Changes in dental practice

SO

New ethical issues arise

Autonomy

- ✓ Professional autonomy refers to the capacity of dentists to decide, for themselves, how to practice, selection of the materials and techniques to be used. They decide whether to perform root canals, extractions of third molars, and esthetic dentistry. They establish office policies that make sense to them, and they work the days and hours that they want. The central dynamic of the relationship between dentists and patients is cooperation, and looking out for the interests of the patients. So for dentists to retain maximum professional independence, they must continue and to meet the special service obligation expected by the public.

Autonomy

- ✓ **Professional autonomy: the capacity of dentists to decide, for themselves, how to practice, selection of the materials and techniques to be used.**

Ex:

Root canals, extractions of third molars

Office policies as working days and hours

BUT STILL:

Dentist – Patient relationship

Cooperation, Patient best interest

Autonomy

How retaining maximum professional independence ?

Keep meeting the special service obligation expected by the public