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“The role of dialogue and networking:  
From a transitional to an industrialized country”

**Dentistry in Higher Education: from Traditional to New  
Paradigm: an Innovation of Oral and Dental Health Social Services,  
Faculty of Dentistry, Gadjah Mada University in Rural Areas**

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**Abstract**

Indonesia is one of the Association Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) members. The population is 205 million inhabitants and it is not distributed evenly over 13.000 islands. There are only 11 Faculties of Dentistry, but 72% are located in Java and Bali. Every year about 800 dentists pass from a faculty of dentistry in Indonesia. According to that condition, it is very difficult to manage of oral and dental health in rural area. The problems is in less of oral and dental health in rural population. The objective of study is teaching on self-help of rural population in oral and dental health and to be increasing of oral health, and giving dental student experience in rural area.

The model of social services in oral and dental health is to develop in collaboration with an alumni network, industry of pharmacy and local government. The program contents are the improvement of oral and dental health promotion and prevention, oral and dental services, survey of oral disease, demand and participation of rural population in oral and dental health.

The result of the study shows that the program of social services in many rural area is very important to be help both on output student quality of teaching and learning in dental higher education and to improved of oral and dental health of rural population. The conclusion is the collaboration activities of social services of oral and dental health in rural area to be matching in island country, and in less of ratio between dentist and population.

**Keywords:** Dental health promotion, higher education, networking, rural area