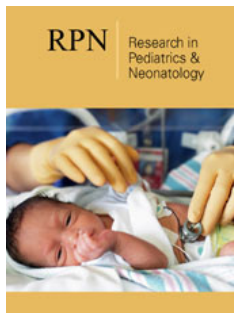


Medical Education Vis-A-Vis National Medical Commission in India

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Editorial

We have heard a lot about current status of Medical Education in India specially at private, Government and Semi Government Medical Colleges in India, which are till recently are controlled by Medical council of India. Now with the Cabinet approval of National Medical Commission (NMC), it is going to replace Medical Council of India shortly. During this transition, the worst sufferers will be undergraduate (U.G.) Medical Students, as the standards will be left to the whims of Concerned authorities of N.M.C. in all respects i.e. Inspections of Private Medical Colleges, in respect of infrastructural facilities and the everlasting problem of ghost faculties. As far as I understood the provisions of NMC, it is totally favourable to the managements of private Medical Colleges in our country, which are far more in number compared to Govt/semi Govt. medical colleges. There is no provision for checking the required teaching faculty structure, specially is clinical subjects. The U.G. Students are suffering & will continue to suffer from inadequate clinical faculty & paucity of patients for clinical learning, even with the present provisions of NMC. The private Managements will be given free hand to charge any amount of fees to 50% of their newly admitted students, who will not be admitted strictly on merit. On top of its private managements will be given free hand to increases the number of yearly admissions with some minor restrictions & no inspections at all.

The State of affairs at Govt. & Semi Government Medical Colleges is definitely better than private Medical Colleges, specially in respect of clinical material and man power, as treatment of patients in these institutions is practically free or at very nominal charges, & so large number of patients with good clinical findings are readily available in these institutes.

Aims & objectives of National Medical Commission (NMC) are apparently good but how they are going to implement their goal under four subcategories of Boards, is to be seen in future & the central Governments authoritarian control of directing anybody in NMC to abide by their orders. If t> NMC fails, any private college on any grounds, the political favouritism will c force NMC authorities to grant permission to such colleges in spite of clearest CND deficiencies & no body can challenge this dictatorship of central Government, even in Courts of Law & Orders of central Government will prevail at any cost. Only increasing the number of undergraduate admissions all over the country without proper planning for their teaching & clinical lessons with proper infrastructure, will be futile & will result in to substandard/ inadequately trained medicos.

We need to look into the present admission process through NEET where in any students having sufficient money to pay to private colleges in Management quota can get admitted by-passing many meritorious poor students who cannot afford to pay the exorbitant management quota fees. The NMC guidelines have got no remedy for these admissions, who are admitted to medical colleges by taking hefty fees and overall psychology of these rich students is not to learn the basics of medicine but just enjoy their status of being a medical student. Of course, there are some exceptions in this

class & I have seen excellent students coming to our 1.1G/PG courses from very rich families.

The planned exit examination (NEXT) for all the MBBS students is detrimental to our health services, as there will be no standard process of evaluation & ultimately the Government will be forced to withdraw this exit exam (NEXT) in due course of time. If there is no exit exam for IAS, IPS, Engineers & Others why it should be applicable to medicos only. I think this concept of Exit exam needs rethinking with proper planning and lot of deliberations with different stake holders in health sector, like state Government, Medical Associations, Specialist Associations & State Medical Councils etc.

While the Government prepares to force the National Medical Commission Bill 2019, it is must to say that the healthcare & medical education of India will go behind by 50 years & will see the darkest days ahead. The retrograde, capitalist, unvisionary bill will yield the worst results & could easily be termed as nothing less than Unchartered. The education system will be slave to the government & handful owners of private medical education. Unvisionary governance is not deaf & blind not to hear or see the darkest side of this NMC Bill 2019. The haste & force applied for pushing this bill through clearly shows vested political interests. The act of bringing this bill is an act against poor but deserving merit of this country. Poores will be dumped & merit will not see dawn.

Now onwards, only those with ample money shall think of medical education. Maximum possible percentages of medical seats being at mercy of the private college's managements will shoot the number of paid seats at their will. It will boost the

donations & fees for medical education. Direct impact will be on the healthcare costs...!! They will rise like never. It is still a matter of concern, how the NEXT will be carried out, whether it is based on competencies acquired? If it is not on competency acquired, then what is the use of NEXT over PG NEET, which is also based on knowledge based on objectives.

Pitfalls

Same pitfalls will continue like MCI, in respect of paucity of Teachers, student's attendance, exorbitant fees & infrastructural larcenies, and the NMC has got no remedies to overcome these pitfalls but has a draconian provision to follow the orders of central Government, without any discussion

Challenges

- A. No planning / provision for meeting the need for rural doctors, postgraduate specialist & super specialists, needed by our country.
- B. Bridge Courses: Allowing any body from any stream to practice allopathy/modern medicine by taking some classes for few weeks, is going to produce official quacks throughout our country & later on it will be impossible to control these quacks & end result will be chaotic treatment of patients, avoidable complications and preventable deaths of patients.
- C. The Exit Exam NEXT is being created unnecessarily without any proper planning & consulting all the stake holders in Health & Medical Education sectors.

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