



Confused? Here's some clarity on MBBS, dental admissions

BENGALURU: Medical and dental seat aspirants are only a few steps away from admission. The document verification process concluded on Friday and the on-line link to choose options is already live.

As students pore over the seat matrix to choose their options, *DH* highlights some points to keep in mind. The number of seats reserved for students of Karnataka-domicile has now increased. Now, 50% of all institution seats in private colleges are reserved for Karnataka candidates. The remaining 50% will be filled on the basis of NEET ranks. Non-Karnataka candidates are eligible for such seats.

The number of reserved seats in minority institutions has also increased, as 50% of the open quota private seats have been set aside for Karnataka students.

Candidates from outside the state can be allotted only general category seats. They are not eligible for government-quota seats and seats in government colleges.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority is conducting

counselling for NRI and management quota seats only for medical colleges, and not for dental colleges. For admission to dental colleges through the NRI or management quota, candidates must approach the colleges directly.

"The Dental Council of India has not made it compulsory for dental colleges to have centralised counselling. However, colleges in Karnataka wanted KEA to conduct the process, leaving out NRI and management seats," Dr S Sachidananda, director of medical education, explained.

Many parents and students were confused as 26 seats in Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, government-quota seats last year, were listed under the private category this time.

Clearing the air, Dr Sachidananda said, "KMC is a deemed university and counselling is done centrally by the directorate-general of health services (DGHS). Until recently, they were using facilities at the district hospital in Udupi. So, as part of the agreement, they had given 26 seats to the government. They are no longer using the facility, but we

Revised schedule

- July 23, 5 pm: Option entry closes
- July 24: Announcement of mock allotment
- July 26: Final allotment
- Aug 5: Last date to report at college

have requested them to give these seats for state students at a concession."

35,000 state students

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) saw over 5,000 candidates a day during verification, which began on July 11. In all, about 22,000 candidates from outside the state attended the verification process. From Karnataka, about 35,000 candidates are attending counselling.

"We were not sure how many people to expect for the verification and we were a little overwhelmed. But we have successfully completed the process," a KEA official said.

This is the first time KEA is conducting counselling for all seats—government, private

and management—based on the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). Candidates from other states also took part in counselling in large numbers.

Some questions answered

■ *If I have already taken admission in an engineering college, can I still take part in medical and dental counselling?*

Yes, if you are admitted on the basis of CET, you can take part in counselling for medical and dental seats.

■ *What happens to the fee already paid?*

It will be transferred to the medical or dental college. If you have paid Rs 50,000 for a government-quota engineering seat and the fee at the medical college is Rs 77,000, you pay only Rs 27,000.

■ *If I have joined an engineering college, can I take part in the second round of counselling to switch to another engineering college?*

No. Once you have taken admission, you cannot take part in subsequent rounds for the same course.

DH News Service

845 seats missing from NEET matrix restored

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: All 845 government quota seats from 11 linguistic minority colleges which were missing from the NEET matrix on Thursday were displayed on the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) website on Friday. This has come as a huge relief to medical aspirants and their parents.

Now, students can go for seats under the government merit quota at a fairly

GOVT MERIT QUOTA

low fee of Rs 77,000 per annum. The fee of a management quota (private) seat is around Rs 6-10 lakh.

Siraj K (name changed), a techie and father of a medical aspirant, said: "After spending a sleepless night thinking we have lost 845 seats under the government merit quota, we were relieved to see them restored on the KEA website. It is next to impossible for many of us (parents) to afford private seat fee."

The incomplete list uploaded on the portal on Thursday had made students jittery.

WE WERE WAITING FOR AGREEMENT

We were waiting for linguistic minority colleges to sign a consensual agreement, which is required before updating their names in the medical seat matrix on the KEA website. In no way, could medical aspirants have lost 845 seats. It's just that the procedure got a tad delayed, which led to all the confusion

S Sachidananda | DIRECTOR, MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPT



Photo for representation only

GATEWAY TO MEDICAL COURSES: A file photo of students outside a NEET exam centre. Fee for a merit seat is Rs 77,000 per annum

Dental aspirants upset over seat non-availability

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Dental aspirants and their parents on Friday expresse unhappiness over the non-availability of government quota seats in deemed universities. Their argument — when there are government quota medical seats in these universities, why not dental?

Roshni M (name changed), a dentist and mother of a candidate, said: "If the medical education department has provided a certain number of medical seats in deemed universities under the merit quota, why couldn't they do so for dental seats as well? Students are not at fault for choosing the dental course."

Admissions to all dental seats under deemed universities in the state have been brought under the all-India quota through the Centre's directorate general of health services (DGHS). The move has deprived Karnataka students of seats under the government merit quota, the parents claimed.

AB Shetty Institute of Dental Sciences, Yenapoya Dental College, College of Dental Sur-

'CENTRE HANDLING ENTIRE PROCEDURE'

S Sachidananda, director, medical education department, said: "In case of medical seats, we have made an arrangement and managed to get 25% of the unused/extra seats from each college under deemed universities and use them under the government merit quota. However, when it comes to dental seats in deemed universities, the entire procedure is being handled by the Centre and we have no role to play in it."

gery, Manipal; College of Dental Surgery, Mangaluru; Siddhartha Institute of Dental Science, Tumkur; JSS Dental College, Mysuru and KLEVK Institute of Dental Sciences, Belagavi fall under deemed universities.

What is the reason for such discrimination between medical and dental students," asked Suman K (name changed), another dentist and father of an aspirant.