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## MCI's digital ID plan for docs runs aground in K'taka

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**Bengaluru:** An ambitious Medical Council of India (MCI) endeavour to provide Aadhaar-linked unique digital identity cards to doctors across the country through state-run medical councils seems to have hit a dead-end in Karnataka.

### DATA BANK

● 1.2 lakh doctors registered with KMC



● Over 20,000 of them have migrated to other states

● Number includes the dead too

The Rs 80-crore Digital Mission Mode Project (DMMP) has been taken up in the backdrop of the MCI drawing criticism over its claims that there are 10.8 lakh doctors in India, ignoring that the figure included more than 75,000 doctors registered before independence, some of them as early as in the 19th century. DMMP was planned to provide authentic data about doctors to ensure better policy-making towards building a strong public healthcare system.

Earlier this year, a person claiming to be an MCI representative visited the Karnataka Medical Council (KMC) for a day for digital work, but did nothing and left the same day. A month later, in April 2018, KMC received an email from MCI in which it thanked the state medical council for extending support over the last eight months in digitalising Karnataka doctors' data by working closely with the said representative from a private company.

A shocked KMC immediately wrote back to MCI, stating it's nothing but false information as no work had been done yet. **TOI** has a copy of the mails.

According to state medical authorities, there's a scam brewing in DMMP. "No resource person has visited our council in the past eight months, except for one day during the initial

period. Your resource person was not knowledgeable and said he'd replace himself with some other person who knows the project well for hand-holding the council for data to be included in the Indian Medical Registry. It is really disheartening to note about your communication regarding completion of the project ... It is a false claim, without actually attending to the job assigned by the Medical Council of India," read the mail from KMC to MCI. The MCI is yet to reply to KMC. A **TOI** questionnaire to MCI is yet to elicit response.

In order to clean up its data based on Aadhaar, the KMC started renewing doctors' registration in 2016 and, so far, over 60,000 practising doctors have renewed their registration, said Dr H Vee-rabhadrappe, KMC president. "We had even told MCI that the KMC had already started the renewal process based on Aadhaar numbers and the same could be used as DDMP. But the MCI insisted that the project has to be done in every state," KMC authorities said.

The MCI had, on August 17, called for a meeting with the state council to discuss digitalisation of doctors' registration, but it was cancelled at the last minute due to the demise of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Source: KMC