

SRI DEVARAJ URS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE

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Now, management colleges face charge of 'excess' fees

AOC has received complaints against eight colleges

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Recent complaints by medical students to the Admission Overseeing Committee (AOC) alleging that their colleges were charging excess fees has opened the floodgates for similar complaints. The committee has received complaints against eight colleges, which offer management courses, for charging "excess" fees.

The colleges, however, have defended the move stating that the money collected over and above the tuition fees stipulated by the government will go towards imparting requisite skills to students, which will ensure their employment.

The Hindu accessed several complaints of students alleging that they were charged anywhere between ₹48,080 and ₹3 lakh a year. While some colleges are collecting the fee in two instalments at the beginning of the semester, others are de-

manding that the amount be paid in full at one go.

Seat allotment for these courses was conducted earlier this month and the last date for payments to be made to KEA is Saturday. Students have to report to colleges on Monday. However, many said they were unable to finish admission formalities as they were unable to pay the "excess" fees to college managements.

For this academic year, the State government has fixed the fee for government quota seats in management courses at ₹50,000 while the university fee is ₹5,390. Half of the seats in private colleges are filled by the State government, for which counselling is conducted by Karnataka Examinations Authority.

A city-based college, which charged ₹1.69 lakh from its first year students and ₹1.65 lakh from its second year students, is in the dock after the Admission Overseeing Communication Sued a notice. The share replied to the notice ing that the fees charged under various heads that include bound learning, ment fests, library membership, seminars/workshare among others. In its reponse it also stated: "In the present employment scenario, the expectations of the corporate world from suedent executives is high."

It added that in this context, it was the endeavour of the college "to meet this demand and make student excutives more employable through various inputs planned by the institute."

The AOC has however stated that the colleges should admit students without demanding any extrafees, failing which they would write to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for withdrawal of recognition for the institution.

HC fiat on admission of non-NEET candidates for AYUSH courses

Colleges told to prepare candidate list strictly based on merit; admission will be subject to final court order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government to issue a public notice on or before October 15 calling upon NEET qualified candidates, interested to seek admission to AYUSH courses in various institutions in Karnataka, to approach the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), and the respective colleges for admission under management quota seats before October 25.

After completing admission of NEET qualified candidates based on their order of



merit, the colleges will have to prepare a list of candidates, who have not appeared for NEET but possess minimum qualification to undergo AYUSH courses, and to be admitted strictly based on their merit. Howev Court directs State to issue public notice inviting NEET qualified candidates to apply for vacant seats

er, admission of non-NEET candidates would be subject to the final order of the court.

A Division Bench comprising Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice Sreenivas Harish Kumar passed the interim order on the petitions filed by Karnataka State AYUSH Medical Colleges Federation and several institutions offering AYUSH courses. The petitioners had sought court's permission to admit non-NEET qualified candidates to AYUSH courses in view of the confusion over whether NEET is mandatory like for MBBS and BDS courses.

The court said that the colleges must submit meritlist of admitted non-NEET candidates to the KEA and the university concerned by completing admissions before October 31.

The colleges have pointed out that only 40% of seats in AYUSH courses have been filled up so far and remaining seats are vacant owing to non-availability of NEET qualified candidates.

Meanwhile, the court noticed that there is confusion over applicability of NEET for AYUSH courses as bulletin on NEET does not refer to AYUSH courses but the authorities in April this year issued directions to the institutions to make admissions only based on NEET ranking. The court also considered the petitioners' argument that there was confusion among students on requirement to appear for NEET for AYUSH courses this year as admission without NEET was permitted during the previous academic year.