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15% hike in MBBS and BDS fee rattles students

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The government has increased the fee for medical and dental courses by 15% for 2019-20. It has gone up by a whopping 50% in the past seven years.

For government quota seats in private colleges, the MBBS fee is up from Rs 97,350 in 2018 to Rs 1,11,959 this year. The figure stood at Rs 46,000 in 2012. The BDS fee has increased from Rs 63,030 to Rs 72,484. It was Rs 35,000 in 2012.

Under the institutional quota, a medical seat will now cost Rs 7,85,565 as compared to last year's Rs 6,83,100. The fee in dental colleges will be Rs 5,32,818, up from Rs 4,63,320 in 2018. The MBBS fee in 2012 was Rs 3,57,500 and BDS Rs 2,53,000.

MBBS and BDS fee in government colleges will remain the same at Rs 50,000 and Rs 40,000 respectively.

The hefty hike in private college fees has prompted students to consider studying abroad orchange their field of interest. "I had already applied to colleges for a BSc seat and may go ahead with that. The fee will be a huge burden for my parents. I would rather pursue a masters degree overseas than

paying so much for an undergraduate course," said Sandhya Kumari, a student who scored 94.3% in class 12 exams.

Sandhya's friend Noorain said she wanted to be a doctor since she was in class 8, but the hike in fees is a major concern. "I know my parents will still ask me to pursue my dream. But the cost is only increasing every year," she said.

Jayaram MR, chairperson of Karnataka Professional Colleges Foundation, said the fee for medical education in Karnataka is among the lowest in India and the hike was necessa-

ry to guarantee quality education. "The annual cost per student amounts to an average of Rs 2.5-3 lakh in Karnataka. In Maharashtra, it's Rs 15 lakh and in Andhra Pradesh, Rs 10 lakh," he explained.

Protest today

The All India Democratic Students' Organisation will hold a demonstration at Mysore Bank Circle at 11am on Saturday to express displeasure at the government's decision. There are 7,645 seats in 51 medical colleges and 2,800 in 35 dental colleges across the state.

COSTLY AFFAIR
- Fee hike for govt quota MBBS seats in private colleges
₹97,350 to ₹1,11,959
- Govt quota BDS seats in private colleges
₹63,030 to ₹72,484

Private colleges
All-India MBBS seat
₹6,83,100 to ₹7,85,565
All-India dental seat
₹4,63,320 to ₹5,32,818

Source: Dept of medical education

NEW MEDICAL COLLEGE
According to E Tukaram, medical education minister, the Medical Council of India has sanctioned a new institution, Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute, with an intake of 150 seats for this year.