



UGC expert panel gets practical, evaluation sans pen, paper

BENGALURU: The evaluation system in the country would soon be moving from the existing pen and paper mode to practical-based system.

An expert committee constituted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) has recommended to move out of the current rote learning to a practical-based assessment method to evaluate the students at the higher education level.

To get opinion and also to educate stake holders on the recommendations, the UGC had organised a workshop on "Evaluation Reforms in higher education institutions in India," at the Maharani's cluster university in Bengaluru on Monday.

Speaking at the event, Prof Rajnish Jain, secretary of UGC, said, "Currently, in the race to get higher marks, rote learning is prevalent. There

is a need to come out of pen and paper mode of examination system."

"When we look at our ancient education institutions, the evaluation of students was based on the practical knowledge of students. In the same way, we need to bring a change in the system to march towards excellence. Higher education institutions play a key role in this transformation," added Jain.

Prof M K Sridhar, member of the committee to draft the New Education Policy highlighted on why the draft policy is silent about the evaluation system.

"If you don't do policy for future, you will revolve around the current problem. In the Draft New Education Policy, there is no chapter on evaluation and no use of the term called Evaluation.

There is one chapter which talks about supporting students' learning environment. It is a vision for a policy that is not just evaluation or examination. It is the learning environment in the classroom and in the campus," he said.

Prof Sridhar stressed the importance of moving out of the era of evaluation to assessment. "The current need is assessment and it has to happen not far away from students, but nearest to students. Our assessment has to be fed back to students and not judgemental to students. In the evaluation system, one should identify the strengths of the students," he mentioned.

Before conducting the workshop in Bengaluru, UGC had organised similar workshops at Delhi and Hyderabad.

DH News Service

Doctors on street as LS passes bill to replace MCI

Bill seeks to do away with post-grad NEET

Sagar Kulkarni

under fee regulation.

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Lok Sabha on Monday passed a bill that seeks to replace the 63-year-old scam-tainted Medical Council of India (MCI) with a National Medical Commission (NMC) – the new regulator for the medical sector – even as doctors took to the streets to protest against the move.

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan described the National Medical Commission bill as “one of the biggest reforms in the medical sector” that would improve the quality of medical education, increase student intake and free medical colleges from “inspector raj”.

The bill that seeks to repeal the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, was passed by a voice vote, amid a walkout by the Opposition Congress, the DMK and the TMC even as the health minister sought to allay members’ apprehensions that the bill does not infringe upon the rights of state governments in setting up of private medical colleges and deciding on seats

The bill seeks to do away with the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for postgraduate courses and proposes to start a National Exit Test (NEXT) as the final examination for the MBBS course.

On the issue of community health providers, Vardhan said that such persons would get a limited license to prescribe medicines for a few common ailments. He said the NMC will decide on the criteria for the community health providers, which has been a well-accepted concept across the world.

The rankings of the NEXT would form the basis for admissions to the postgraduate courses, Vardhan said adding that the students will have an option for re-appearing for the NEXT to improve their rankings.

Clearing the NEXT will also grant doctors license to practice medicine as well as get them enrolled in the state register. It will also be the qualifying criteria for any student holding a foreign medical degree for getting the license to practice medicine.

UGC suggests 23 modes of assessment for students

STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has suggested 23 modes of assessment apart from regular methods for students.

At a workshop for evaluators from 125 institutions across Karnataka and Kerala on Monday to deliberate

upon “evaluation reforms in higher education institutions in India”, Rajnish Jain, secretary, University Grants Commission, said there was a need for students to be assessed on their strengths as well. He said evaluators have to delve on assessment patterns besides the regular pen-and-paper examination.

Medical Commission Bill passed

Opposition says it's 'undemocratic'; Harsh Vardhan calls it revolutionary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the National Medical Commission Bill, 2019 (NMC) with Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan assuring the House that the Bill, which seeks to repeal the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, will go down in history as the most revolutionary step taken to improve medical education in India.

According to him, no powers of the State government will be taken away by the

Centre through this Bill. Dr. Vardhan said: "We have also withdrawn the suggestion of a bridge course."

A motion for consideration of the Bill was passed by 260-48 votes after a division of votes was sought and the Bill was then passed by a voice vote.

Speaking about the exit-examination during the four-hour debate which saw the participation of 32 MPs across parties, Dr. Vardhan said: "We are bringing this to ensure good standard of

medical students and colleges and to bring in transparency." The Minister added that the State governments would be fully involved with the running of the councils.

The Bill was opposed by several Opposition MPs. While Vincent Pala of the Congress asked the Minister to explain what happens to MBBS students who don't pass the NEXT or the national exit exam, DMK's A. Raja called the Bill a 'joke' and 'undemocratic.'

Trinamool leader Dr. Ka-

koli Ghosh Dastidar said many students who study in the regional language find it difficult to clear NEET. She also described the Bill as going against the federal structure of the Constitution.

IMA stages protest

Doctors and medical students under the Indian Medical Association (IMA) held a protest march from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences to Nirman Bhawan on Monday, calling the Bill anti-poor and anti-student.

UP college fails MCI test; students in limbo

'Inadequate Faculty, Fake Patients Found'

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Inadequate faculty, fake patients in its teaching hospital, and other deficiencies found during repeated inspections by the Medical Council of India (MCI) have led to Glocal Medical College in Saharanpur being



Photo for representation only

Glocal Medical College in Saharanpur was barred from admitting students after it repeatedly failed in inspections by the MCI

barred from admitting students from academic year 2017-18 till 2019-20. Yet, about 75 students admitted in 2016 are trapped in the college as the Uttar Pradesh government refuses to transfer them to other medical colleges as other states have done in similar cases.

They are among hundreds of students still facing the consequence of the 2016 decision of the MCI's Oversight Committee (OC) appointed by the Supreme Court that year. The OC allowed several colleges to take in students despite MCI inspections showing they did not have adequate facilities to start a medical college. In what's become a standard tactic, many colleges challenged the MCI inspection report and the OC allowed them to take in students on the basis of a bank guarantee of Rs 2 crore which they would forfeit if they failed to run the college according to norms. With an annual tuition fee per student of Rs 11 lakh in the case of Glocal that would

be about Rs 8.25 crore a year from the 75 students.

Of the 75 admitted in 2016, 23 were allotted to this college through state counselling. The rest are fighting a case for their admission done outside state-organised counselling to be regularized. Not only did the state government allot students to the college, it had also issued an essentiality certificate certifying that the teaching hospital had adequate clinical material.

In the essentiality certificate, the state government also guarantees that "in case the applicant fails to create infrastructure for the medical college as per MCI norms and fresh admissions are stopped by the central government, the state government shall take over the responsibility of the students already admitted". This guarantee is given by every state government when issuing an essentiality certificate to start a medical college. On the basis of this guarantee, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab,

Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Haryana and Kerala, have shifted out students of private colleges which failed to fulfil MCI norms. In many of these cases, essentiality certificates were withdrawn and the colleges shut down.

However, despite Glocal being barred from admission in 2017 for two successive academic years, the UP government has refused to intervene or take responsibility for even the students who were allotted this college through the state counselling process.

"The MCI inspection reports are absolutely right. There are no patients in the hospitals. They bring fake patients during inspection. Though we had faculty in the first year, most have left as their salaries have not been paid. Yet the college has continued to collect tuition and hostel fees. So far, each of us has paid about Rs 30 lakh. The second year exams have not yet been held. For five months, there have been no classes," said a student.

ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಸೂದೆಗೆ ಅಸ್ತು

ನವದೆಹಲಿ: ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಇತಿಹಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯವೆಂದೇ ಬಣ್ಣಿಸಲಾದ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಆಯೋಗ ಮಸೂದೆ ಲೋಕಾರ್ಪಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡಿಸಿದ್ದು ಸದನದ ಒಳಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಹೊರಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ-ರೋಧದ ನಡುವೆಯೇ ಅಂಗೀಕಾರಗೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ಮಸೂದೆಯನ್ನು ಮಂಡಿಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಚಿವ ಡಾ.ಹರ್ಷವರ್ಧನ್ ಇದೊಂದು ಅತಿದೊಡ್ಡ ಸುಧಾರಣಾ ಕ್ರಮವೆಂದು ಬಣ್ಣಿಸಿದರು. 1956ರ ಭಾರತೀಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗೆ ಪರ್ಯಾಯವಾಗಿ ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಈ ಕರಡು ಶಾಸನ 63 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದ ಎಂಸಿಐ

■ ಎಂಸಿಐ ಬದಲಿಗೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಆಯೋಗ

■ ವೈದ್ಯರು-ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಮಸೂದೆಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿರೋಧ

ಜಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಆಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಅವರು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.

ಭಾರತೀಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಭಾರೀ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಭ್ರಷ್ಟಾಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಳುಗಿದ್ದು ಮಸೂದೆ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟೆಕ್ಷರ್ ರಾಜ್ ಹಾಗೂ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಅಂತ್ಯ ಹಾಡುವುದೆಂದು ಅವರು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿದರು.

ವಿದೇಶಗಳಿಂದ ಬರುವ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಪದವೀಧರರಿಗೆ ಸ್ಪೀನಿಂಗ್ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ನಡೆಸುವ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವವನ್ನು ಅವರು ಮುಂದಿಟ್ಟರು.

ಚರ್ಚೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಪ್ರತಿಪಕ್ಷಗಳ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಚುನಾಯಿತ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಬದಲು ನಾಮಕರಣ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ರಚನೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಹುನ್ನಾರ ಪ್ರಜಾಪ್ರಭುತ್ವ ವಿರೋಧಿ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಟೀಕಿಸಿದರು. ರಾಜಧಾನಿ ದೆಹಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಸ್ರಾರು ವೈದ್ಯರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಬಲವಾಗಿ ವಿರೋಧಿಸಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸಿದರು.