



## Medical students gather in Hisar pleading health ministry to equalize UG and PG seats

HISAR: Over 300 medical students gathered and conducted a walk to once again plead to the Union Health Ministry to equalize Under Graduation (UG) and Post Graduation (PG) medical seats. The movement by the medical students called 'Save the Doctor' also took place in other cities like Mumbai, Bangalore, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Mysore and Guwahati, on the same day. Dressed in their regular lab coats along with a black ribbon, the students walked from Hisar Bus Stop to Ganesh Market.

Commenting about the movement, Dr. Naresh Trehan, CMD, Medanta said "I am quite concerned about the present state of affairs for the medical students in our country. We all are aware that the number of students graduating and the number of PG seats available are not equal.

Medical students and graduates are struggling, in order to get a PG seat they repeat exams, making them distracted. For the need of the country, we believe we should take measures to change the system as soon as possible. We need more qualified doctors in the country." He also added, "As part of the healthcare system, we have written to the ministry and authorities and we have received favorable response and we are hopeful there will soon be solutions."

The top ten causes of death in India include diseases of the heart, diarrheal disease, chronic respiratory diseases and strokes, to name a few. Nine out of the ten require specialist doctors to treat them. Today, India lacks specialist doctors due to inadequate number of PG seats in medical institutions. Though the country has

the largest number of medical institutions, the disparity in the number of seats allotted for PG and UG students along with the mandatory rural posting are affecting young doctors, as they end up spending 13 years merely studying. This also means that the future of our healthcare system is at a huge risk if the current scenario continues. As senior specialist doctors/surgeons retire in the future, there will be a dearth of specialist doctors and surgeons in India. Pursuing a Post Graduation in any stream of medicine is essential for a doctor to become a specialist such as Gynecologist, Neurologist, Surgeon, Radiologist etc.

Dr. Narendra Saini, Secretary General, IMA, said, "The young doctors of India are losing their productive years in studying and mugging answers to get through a PG seat."