

"I can't afford to live anymore; unfortunately I can't afford to die due to my family."

These are not the words of just one aspiring MD student but thousands of such similar voices due to impact of a veiled healthcare system. The way things are going, we'll have to import surgeons from another country in about 5 to 10 years' time!

CURRENT SITUATION

As of now, there are 46,300 UG seats and 22,000 PG seats – out of which only 12,000 PG seats are in clinical subjects of interest. Due to this, there is a dearth of trained medical practitioners in specific areas of medical expertise resulting in patients suffering due to lack of qualified doctors. Also, just for information, USA has 19,000 UG seats and 32,000 PG seats.

There is a disparity in the number of seats allotted for PG and UG students and young doctors are getting hit due to this with implications on the quality of treatment given to patients. Also, it is vital to include rural posting as part of internship and PG courses so that one precious year of earned living doesn't start late.

In the past when an undergraduate student worked hard he was guaranteed to pass the exam. However, today PG selection process has little to do with hard work. Due to limited number of seats, it has become a zero sum game.

Dearth of PG Seats is leading to a woeful shortage of competent doctors in India...and a bleak future for lakhs of deserving candidates. While it is difficult to get through the PG course, the compulsory rural posting is another hurdle to be crossed before a doctor starts earning his living.

IMPACT

We have witnessed the govt. spending billions of dollars to reduce mortality rates without much success. What we have failed to realize is that it's not due to lack of money that people are dying; we simply don't have enough doctors to take care of us!

I can't allow my fellowmen to suffer and die in pain when lakhs of passionate doctors are waiting for a license from the govt. to heal us.

The cause is big. So is my commitment.

Today I appeal to you to help us equalize the number of medical UG and PG seats and include rural posting as part of internship and PG courses for life's sake.

Yours Faithfully,
An earnest Indian