# The Future of Pre and Para Clinical Post Graduate medical education in India

“IN a bid to encourage medical graduates to opt for post graduation in pre and para-clinical courses, the Odisha Government on Tuesday hiked stipend of the students pursuing these courses in State-run medical colleges. The State Government also announced to provide additional financial assistance of Rs 18,000 per month to the pre and para-clinical PG students along with the stipend money.  
Health and Family Welfare Minister Pratap Jena said it will be applicable to both in-service and direct PG students.” Such piece of news was there in newspaper,online and had gone viral on social media few days back.

Does it highlight the appalling state of postgraduate medical education in pre and para clinical fields in India? It is not common to see that many pre and para clinical postgraduates struggle find jobs in their field of specialization. It is common sight to see the postgraduates taking up jobs like medical officer or any else just to make their ends meet. They do not stand a chance for any better chance of employability per se because of their postgraduate education in academic or research. Eventually, they feel lost or been cheated that they have wasted 3 or 4 years of their M.D. in such a specialization. The word of mouth or ever expanding network of social media let out the unmanipulated truth as it is. “***No job opportunities after such specialization.” No takers for such courses and the seats go vacant.*** Does it ring alarm?

Does providing incentive like Odisha government as above is any solution? We have to seek plausible solution to perennial problems plaguing pre and para clinical sciences in India. Why there are hardly any takers for pre and para clinical courses in most of the colleges in India? Is it no job prospects or poor post graduate curriculum? Or is it something else?

If there are poor job prospects, we need to explore why? Is it because they are only looking for opportunities in medical college? The job opportunities in medical college have dwindled drastically because MCI has slashed down faculty requirement in pre and para clinical departments of medical college. Is it because of increase in age of retirement in many colleges? Is it pre and para clinical specialist not paid properly by private colleges and also used by many colleges for clerical and administrative work which they are not even paid for? Is there no scope of growth and development in such specialization?

Whether the post graduate training prepares them to meet the challenges of future? Is the post graduate training adequate? Is the post graduate curriculum revised to tackle the unmet needs?

Are there any other reasons for such a devastating state of pre and post postgraduate education? It is high time we take responsibility of medical education in our country. These questions can be solved scientifically by using qualitative methods like focus group or semi quantitative methods. We have to solve this problem more diligently.