

BRIEF NOTE ON MEDICAL ADMISSIONS 2003 - PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

By

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At the outset I thank the Organisers for giving me an opportunity to speak on Medical Admissions 2003 problems and solutions.

In this context it is not out of place to mention here that the NTR University of Health Sciences is passing through some crisis for every six years.

After the establishment of the University in 1986, in the year 1991 in the name of the restored seats, the selections made by the University resulted in furore in students community as well as their parents.

Thereafter in the year 1997, once again the very existence and continuation of University became doubtful due to the problem whether the admissions to the medical colleges shall be made region-wise or institution wise? Incidentally, the question of allotting the students into the three Government Medical Colleges located in Osmania University region in favour of the unreserved category has become controversial as to whether those seats shall be distributed institution wise or area wise?

Finally, all of us know the fate of medical admissions made in the year 2003.

In the academic year 2003-04, the State Government have categorised the available seats into A, B, C categories in the private unaided non-minority medical colleges, quoting the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment rendered on 31-10-2002 and the clarification

issued thereon dated 14-8-2003 in *T.M.A. Pai Foundation* case.

However, the same is contrary to the essence of the judgment. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that the seats in these colleges shall be in the ratio of 50:50 between the Managements and the State Governments. After series of negotiations with the Managements of the Private Medical Colleges in the State, the Government have issued G.O. Ms. No.488, and others dated 5-9-2003 prescribing allocation of seats, fees structure, procedure to be followed for making admissions *etc.*

While the process of admissions was in progress from 20-9-2003, the State Government have issued G.O. No.574, dated 22-9-2003 amending G.O. Ms. No.488 facilitating the Managements of the Private Medical Colleges to fill up the unfilled seats under "B" Category by converting them into "C" Category *i.e.*, Management seats.

I feel that when the admission process has started and is in progress, issuance of such amendments has resulted in the present crisis.

While the State Government and the University of Health Sciences have different versions as regards the chaos, it is clear that the University has chosen not to convene an emergency Executive Council Meeting to examine and decide upon the further course of action for the reasons best known to it.

Ultimately, the fate of about 67 students is undecided till date while several seats are still lying vacant causing loss to student community as well as Managements.

In this context, as a person closely associated with the admission process for about 8 years, I am of the view that the University ought to have examined the orders issued in G.O. Ms. No.574 and taken a wise and judicious decision to avoid the present controversy.

As you all know, the number of medical seats available in the State are very few when compared to the neighbouring States and the present crisis has resulted in denial of seats to merit students which is very unfortunate.

Before pointing out my finger against any individual for the above lapses that occurred, which shook the very existence of the University I strongly feel and believe that every one needs to respect the Institution and the existing system.

Coming to making any suggestions for the improvement of the institution and the system, I strongly advocate that an academic schedule is prepared well in advance and strictly adhered to it and under no circumstances it should be allowed to deviate.

Unfortunately, though we are coming to the end of November, 2003 till now neither a notification is issued inviting applications for conducting Post Graduate Medical Entrance Test till now. In this backdrop, it is not possible to make admissions for Post Graduate Medical Courses during the Calendar year 2003.

The policy makers who are at the helm of affairs of the University have failed to either visualise or anticipate the present crisis. Ultimately, the sufferers in the process are the innocent student community, their ambitious parents and the philanthropists, who have

come forward to establish medical colleges by investing huge amounts and have created infrastructure facilities for the betterment of the society in general students and people in particular.

There is no co-ordination and cohesion between the University and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, leave about Medical Council of India and Government of India. The University being an autonomous body failed to identify and assert in the areas, where it could act independently and judiciously. Functioning of the University *vis-à-vis* the policy of the Government, the autonomy of the University shall be supreme.

The Government of India has contributed its mite to the present crisis in granting Letter of Permissions, Renewals on 29th and 30th September, 2003 knowing fully well the deadline *i.e.*, 30th September, 03. The schedule fixed by the Medical Council of India pursuant to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in *Medical Council of India v. Madhu Singh's* Case cannot be allowed to be disturbed. The Government of India who are fully aware that the MCI has rejected the proposal for extension of time to complete the admission process, nevertheless, have granted permissions and renewals in the eleventh hour.

The State Government and the University instead of filing an interlocutory application in a disposed of matter before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, ought to have taken similar steps to that of the States of Maharashtra, Orissa and West Bengal.

I appeal to one and all in this august gathering, who have excelled in their respective fields, to guide the University in order to achieve the cherished dream of its founder late Dr. NTR, in future and bring recognition and laurels not only in the country.