



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

August 5, 2021

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Honorable Dr. Suresh Sharma
Chairman, National Medical Council

SUB: AAPI requests inclusion of the Family Medicine as a mandatory department in the 'Minimum Requirements for Annual M.B.B.S. Admissions Regulations, 2021 to fulfill NMC requirement of Chapter V, 24(1)c, 25(1)J and Chapter VIII, 57(2)(p).

- 24 1 (c) develop competency based dynamic curriculum for addressing the needs of primary health services, community medicine and family medicine to ensure healthcare in such areas, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations made under this Act; (d) frame guidelines
- 25 (1) (j) promote and facilitate postgraduate courses in family medicine.
- 57 (2)(p) the curriculum for primary medicine, community medicine and family medicine under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 24;

Dear Honorable Dr. Suresh Sharma

Please accept our greetings on behalf of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) which represents the interests of over 65,000 practicing Physicians and 25,000 Medical Students, Residents and Fellows of Indian Origin in the USA for making many changes in NMC.

By increasing the MBBS seats to 83,000 by the NMC in 2021, India is on path World health Organization's (WHO) goal of one doctor per 1,000 people. On behalf of AAPI, we thank you and NMC for bringing sweeping changes in Medical Education.

As per the National Medical Commission (NMC) act 2019 sections 24 (1) c, 25 (1) J, 57 (1)), Undergraduate Medical Education Board shall develop competency based dynamic curriculum for addressing the needs of primary health services, community medicine and family medicine to ensure healthcare in such areas, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations made under this Act. Also, it mentions to promote and facilitate postgraduate courses in family medicine.

Family Medicine MD was introduced by MCI in 2012 but only five medical colleges developed Family medicine Departments and postgraduate MD courses out of 542 medical colleges in India. They include Calicut University in Kerala, NRI Medical College in Andhra Pradesh, CMC Vellore in Tamil Nadu, St Johns Medical College in Bangalore and MGM Medical College in Maharashtra. By making MD program in Family Medicine widely available, this new generation of Family Medicine postgraduates can provide a comprehensive medical and surgical care to the communities in the rural, suburban and urban areas. All the members in a family can get benefitted from attending one Family Medicine post graduate doctor's facility instead of going to 4 or 5 different specialists.



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This can only be fulfilled by making mandatory Family medicine department by National Medical Commission. This will make all the medical colleges have family medicine department and dedicated faculty to teach family medicine curriculum as per NMC Gazette requirements. Having a separate family medicine department will also promote medical students to pursue post-graduation courses in family medicine which will produce a diverse family medicine workforce that meets the health needs of the community.

Making mandatory Family medicine department will bring more post graduate seats, which is goal of NMC. Three years trained family medicine post graduates can produce high quality primary care physician and bring confidence in population and help improve health of India.

Looking forward for meeting you in person in our upcoming Global health summit in Hyderabad in January 2022. Thank you for your consideration in advance to have mandatory Family medicine department to promote facilitate postgraduate course in family medicine.

Sincerely,

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