



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

May 31, 2020

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Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology, Earth Sciences  
Government of India

Executive Board Chairman, World Health Organization (WHO)  
ENT Surgeon

Honorable Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan Ji,

**SUB:** AAPI requests to create a **Family Medicine Department** mandatorily in all medical colleges by MCI. This will fulfil NMC Gazette section 24c, 25J.

AAPI would like to congratulate Modiji and you Harshvardanji for passing NMC bill

Hearty Congratulations for being elected as Chairman of the Executive Board of World Health Organization (WHO). 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.

By increasing the MBBS seats to 75,000 by the Board of Governors of MCI in 2019, India reached World health Organization's (WHO) goal of one doctor per 1,000 people in many Southern States. India still needs more doctors in many rural areas and Northern States. It will usher us into the new era of medicine in India. On behalf of AAPI, we thank you and MCI for bringing sweeping changes in Medical Education.

## Family Medicine:

Currently India is facing severe shortage of Family Medicine post graduate specialty doctors.

AAPI requests Board of Governors of MCI/NMC to make Family Medicine Department mandatory in all medical colleges, similar to the Emergency Medicine Department, which was made mandatory by MCI in all medical colleges by 2022. Due to the mandatory rule adopted by the MCI, Emergency Medicine departments have been established across all medical colleges.

## According to the NMC Gazette:

**Section 24 (c) Of NMC Gazette:** 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;(we need a department to implement curriculum in each medical college)

**Section 25 (j) Of NMC Gazette:** promote and facilitate postgraduate courses in family medicine. (We need a family medicine department to promote facilitate post graduate course in family medicine).



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Family Medicine MD was introduced by MCI in 2012 but only five Medical colleges developed Family medicine Departments and post graduate 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. Presently India produces approximately 126 DNB graduates and 10 MD seats in Family Medicine.

Most of the current MBBS general practitioners practice Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Pediatrics and Obstetrics with minimal non structured training. By making MD program in Family Medicine widely available, these 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. This is a much better way of providing community healthcare.

According to MCI guidelines, out of 36 months of Family Medicine MD training, 12 months should be in primary health center and small community Hospital. This will address much needed doctor shortage in small rural health clinic and rural community 30 bed hospitals.

Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization (2012-2017) quoted that 'Family Medicine trained doctors have always been the backbone of comprehensive healthcare'. WHO recommends 20% Family Physicians. Project 92 submitted to Parliament in 2016 recommends 30 to 50% in Family Medicine. Family Medicine in India is a recognized medical specialty.

In developed countries like USA, out of total 31,413 Residency programs, 4,316 (13.7%) positions are in family medicine per year. In UK and other developed countries, 20% post graduates are trained as General practitioners.

India needs 15 % of MBBS seats in Family Medicine i.e. approximately 10 000 to 12,000 Post graduate seats in all medical colleges.

Hoping to have your valuable thoughts and inputs on this project.

Regards,

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President, AAPI

Lokesh Edara, MD  
Chairman, AAPI AD HOC Committee  
International Medical Education



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