

ATTENTION

those who seek to pursue medical M.Sc in Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology or Microbiology.

These courses are generally conducted by the same medical colleges that also conduct MBBS and MD in these subjects. Some non-medical colleges and universities too run these courses.

Once included in the First Schedule of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, these courses have been abandoned by the Medical Council of India for recognition or regulation. Grossly overlooked by the UGC, these courses are the mercy of individual universities.

These courses were introduced in the 1960s to fill the shortage of doctors in these pre- and para-clinical subjects and were offered to both the doctors and non-doctors alike. With plenty of doctors with MD in these subjects available, medical M.Sc degree holders are now no longer wanted.

Since these subjects are exclusively medical, the degree holders are suitable only for professions related to healthcare and medical education. Now, there is increased lobby against hiring persons with medical M.Sc degrees. This education enables the degree holders to participate in three major professions: teaching in medical colleges, consultants in diagnostic laboratories and medical research.



TEACHING

The curriculum and syllabus of the medical M.Sc courses in these subjects are similar to that of MD courses, these degree holders are qualified to take up teaching jobs in medical colleges. Approximately, 13% of teachers in these subjects across the medical colleges are non-doctors. MCI permits their appointment as teachers to the extent of 30%. Due to the increased competition malicious campaign are now being run against medical M.Sc degree and attempts are being made to project them in poorer light.



DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

Persons with medical M.Sc degree in Biochemistry and Microbiology have been rendering their services as consultant Biochemists or Microbiologists for several decades. Like their counterparts with MD, they too have been taught the principles and practices of laboratory diagnosis of human diseases including specimen collection, processing, standardization and interpretation of laboratory test results. Now the health ministry and MCI have joined hands to keep all biomedical scientists out of the diagnostic industry.



MEDICAL RESEARCH

MCI terms non-doctors with medical M.Sc degree as biomedical scientists but has no plan to use them as scientists. In most medical colleges, genuine research in basic medical sciences is non-existent or is just a sham. Only a handful of people are employed as scientists in central government research institutes. The scope for research in medical sciences within India is dismally low, with hardly any funds or infrastructure dedicated to research. Most persons have flourished because they left India.

What are they doing about it?

There is widespread neglect and apathy regarding medical M.Sc courses or persons with these degrees



Neither the HRD ministry nor the MoHFW has displayed any interest in dealing with the crisis. This policy paralysis has existed since several decades with no interest among successive governments to address this issue.



By bringing guidelines on the diagnostic laboratories under the Clinical Establishments Act, the MoHFW has colluded with the hostile MCI to deny all roles to biomedical scientists in diagnostic laboratories.



The medical colleges and universities that have conducted these courses for years/decades and profited from such courses have never stood up to their alumni and have not supported the roles played by the medical M.Sc persons.

Aspirants must carefully consider the job opportunities and career prospects before investing time, energy and money on medical M.Sc courses.

Issued in the public interest by National M.Sc Medical Teachers' Association (NMMTA)



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