## NYWEEKLY\_ Srikanth Kandragula\_9587

## Urgent need for Medical Professionals and Healthcare Infrastructure amid growing Indian Population and Uncertain Economy

In order to cater to healthcare needs of a population of 1.35 billion, India would need an additional of approximately 7 lakh doctors by 2022. With increasing demand to pursue medicine in India, several hundreds of thousands of students appear for India's NEET exam, out of which only 42,000 seats in 272 Government Colleges and 36,000 seats through 260 Private Colleges (including deemed universities), totaling to around 78,000 seats are offered. Regretfully, dreams of hundreds of thousands of students to pursue medicine have not been fulfilled, Year on Year.

Perforce, students who fail to get admission in India are forced to look at other alternatives outside of India, to pursue medical education. This is where countries such as the Philippines, China, Ukraine, Georgia, Caribbean Islands, Russia gain by absorbing students. As compared to the quality of education provided by Indian medical colleges, these overseas medical colleges fare poorly when it comes to quality.

On the other hand, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected UK universities an estimated £11 billion due to VISA regulations, resulting in reduced international student intake. Several hundreds of thousands of Indian students look for alternate options in the UK/US/Europe to pursue their medical education, and it is imperative to bridge this gap. In this scenario, many Indian Institutions are exploring opportunities to work with UK/European/USA universities to set up their offshore campus in India or a twinning program with them.



Such opportunities would allow students to pursue their medical dreams in two countries over the six years duration of the course. The Degree would be awarded by the respective foreign university. During six years of the course, it would allow each student to learn at both campuses, either 2 years study in India followed by 4 years overseas or vice versa. This exposure to the student will definitely help in gaining rich international exposure while also imparting global standards of medical education.

With increase in demand for medical professionals, in India, Maheshwara Group, Hyderabad is in advanced stage of discussions with universities in UK, USA and Europe. Maheshwara Group is already into medical education and promoted Maheshwara Medical College & Hospital, Hyderabad - a 650-bed Multispecialty Hospital & Medical College with 21 departments, equipped with world-class infrastructure, dedicated staff and 24 hours Emergency health care services from Central Casualty, OBG Casualty, Trauma Care Center, ICU, ICCU, SICU, NICU, PICU, Laboratory, Radio Diagnostic Services, Operation Theatres', state-of-the-art Blood Bank, Pharmacy and Ambulance Services.

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Plans are afoot in full swing to develop the infrastructure requirements to establish Maheshwara Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad, in association with Foreign Universities, and required approvals from State and Central Government are in the process. **Dr. G. Savitha, Deputy Director** said that "the requisite approvals are expected to be completed over three months and the course is likely to commence by January 2021. The syllabus for the course would be provided by the respective foreign universities".

Prospective Students/Parents may contact **Dr. G. Savitha, Deputy Director** on +91 9133043333 for any details in this regard.