

**Original Article****PERCEPTIONS ON SELF-FINANCED MEDICAL INSTITUTES  
AMONG RECENT MEDICAL GRADUATES**Vinesh Shah<sup>1</sup>, Kanan T. Desai<sup>2</sup>, Ravi A Jariwala<sup>3</sup>, Danish B Kanpurwala<sup>4</sup>, RK Bansal<sup>5</sup>**Financial Support:** Non declared**Conflict of interest:** Non declared**Copy right:** The Journal retains the copyrights of this article. However, reproduction of this article in the part or total in any form is permissible with due acknowledgement of the source.**How to cite this article:**

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Email: drrkbansal@gmail.com**Date of Submission:** 23-07-12**Date of Acceptance:** 21-10-12**Date of Publication:** 30-12-12**ABSTRACT****Background:** The issue of high fee payment/Non Residential Indian quota seats and private sector involvement in medical education has drawn a lot of flak from the ethicist in India.**Aim:** The current study was planned with an aim to explore the perceptions of the recent medical graduates/graduating students of private medical college on self financed medical institutes.**Methods:** This is a cross-sectional study comprising of personal interviews using a semi-structured questionnaire among 400 recent medical graduates of Surat Municipal Institute of Medical Education and Research. Data analysis was done with help of Epi Info 7.**Results:** Exactly half 200 (50%) of the respondents were against seeking admission in a self financed institution (Table 1). Almost twice the number of males as compared to females had opined in favor of seeking admission in self financed colleges. Major reason to seek admission in self finance institute given by one third students was that they were clever students who failed to score in their admission examinations, hence has to take admission in the payment medical college.**Conclusion:** Fresh graduates of private medical institute face a very difficult situation after M.B.B.S, as after years of hard work, they face a gloomy prospect, as a result of a need to recuperate the mammoth amounts of capital invested in private medical colleges.**Keywords:** Medical graduates, self finance, medical institute, perceptions**INTRODUCTION**

The issue of high fee payment/NRI (Non Residential Indian) quota seats and private sector involvement in medical education has drawn a lot of flak from the ethicist in India for promoting needless health care costs, as the students paying such high capitation/tuition fees for studies are bound to recover this investment during their subsequent medical practice<sup>1,2</sup>, even at cost of resorting to unethical means such as dispensing of medicines at a

higher rate; split practice; advising unnecessary investigations; sham operations; bribes etc.<sup>3,4</sup>. A medical practitioner already go through many difficulties before establishing his practice like high time and financial investment for setting up a practice, space, equipments; apart from struggle in running an establishment amidst stiff competition. Private medical colleges with its burden of gigantic capitation/tuition fees and bank guarantees, only adds to the existing cost spiraling<sup>3</sup>. This in due course means borrowing for most of middle class students, which in turn

means repayment with interest, thus perpetuating a vicious cycle, under poorly paid; unmotivated; pitiable working environment<sup>3</sup>.

The current study was planned with an aim to explore the perceptions of the recent medical graduates/graduating students of private medical college on the self financed medical institutes.

## METHODOLOGY

It is a cross-sectional study, comprising of oral personal interviews using a semi-structured interrogate questionnaire containing variables pertaining to the study intent. Total 400 recent graduating M.B.B.S. (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) students were included in the study with from the cohort of recent graduates/graduating students list of SMIMER (Surat Municipal Institute of Medical Education and Research) medical college, a self financed institute in Surat city. Simple random sampling was done. Informed consent was taken from all

the participants before interview. Data analysis was done with the help of Epi Info 7.

## RESULTS

The most interesting observation that emerged is that, exactly half 200 (50%) of the respondents were against seeking admission in a self financed institution (Table 1). Almost twice the number of males as compared to females had opined that people should seek admission in self financed colleges. One third of the students replied that they were clever students who failed to score in their H.S.C. examinations and hence had to take admission in the self financed medical college. The most common reason for avoiding self financed education was the fact that it is very expensive as felt by 143 (73%) of students against private medical education. Of the total 400 students, 256 (64%) students felt that only those who belonged to the rich families seek admission in private medical colleges, whereas 74 (18.45%) students' felt that only whose parents were doctors opt for the same.

**Table 1: Perceptions on self financed medical college (N=400)**

Reasons	Gender		Total (%)
	Male (%)	Female (%)	
Opinions on taking admission in self financed medical college (N=400)			
Should take admission	122 (48.4%)	38 (25.7%)	160 (40%)
Should not take admission	126 (50%)	74 (50%)	200 (50%)
No comments	4 (1.6%)	36 (24.3%)	40 (10%)
Reasons for coming in self financed medical college (N=400)			
Fulfills one's and one's family's ambition to be a doctor			88 (22%)
Can do anything for getting M.B.B.S. degree			56 (14%)
Good education and equipment facilities as compared to government colleges			40 (10%)
Clever students who failed to score good marks in Higher Secondary(HSC) exams			132 (33%)
If it is reputed college			40 (10%)
Because one's parents are doctor			44 (11%)
Reasons for not favoring seeking of admission in self financed medical colleges (N=200)			
Very expensive			146 (73%)
Chances for cancellation of Medical Council of India recognition			10 (5%)
Less patient exposure			24 (12%)
Inappropriate staff for teaching			20 (10%)
Types of students seeking admissions in self financed medical college (N=400)			
Students belonging to rich families			256 (64%)
Students whose parents are doctors			74 (18.45%)
Clever students who failed to score good marks in HSC exams			30 (7.6%)
Students who are firm in taking admission only in M.B.B.S.			40 (9.95%)

## DISCUSSION

The emerged issue from current study of seeking admission in self financed medical

college because ones parents are doctors is self-explanatory as they already have a well established hospital/nursing home in place and

need their son/daughter to continue running the same due to the already committed heavy instruments. Another striking observation that emanates from this study is that, there were respondents who were willing to invest huge amounts studying in a private medical institution, because they felt that the facilities and teaching here was far superior to the state run colleges, thus highlighting an imperative need to invest in our public sector teaching hospitals<sup>1</sup>.

The medical profession requires fine tuning of monetary aspect with social obligation, far more than any other profession<sup>1</sup>. Traditionally the society accepts that though a doctor can earn money, it cannot be at the cost of everything else, as they have been educated at society's expense. This is in stark contrast to the privatized medical education, where the graduates feel that they have paid for their education which was without any government subsidies and hence they have no social obligations<sup>1, 5, 6</sup>, indicating us to choose for partial subsidization of private medical colleges against the loggerheads of fully privatized education system<sup>6, 7</sup>, to preserve the fundamental societal right to essential health<sup>6</sup>. It need to be pointed out here that some state governments like Gujarat have a bond in place which makes it compulsory for the graduating doctors to serve in the government health care facilities for a prescribed period or pay a prefixed amount to the government. However till now the bond is applicable only to the students studying on free seats in government subsidized colleges and not in self financed medical colleges.

## CONCLUSIONS

The findings of aforementioned study clearly bring home the fact that freshly graduating doctors of private institutes do face a severe pressure to recover the huge amounts of money

invested in private medical colleges in light of which vital issues such as medical ethics; altruism; and feelings of serving the nation have been put on the backburner. Of course, students whose parents are doctors and possess an existing health care facility are invariably content with their decision. It is high time that the government awakes from its slumber and revitalized the public medical education facilities, otherwise medical line would cease to attract and serve the poor, indigent and the rural inhabitants and India would be saddled with a defunct medical education system obsessed with mediocre student intake with affluent background.

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