

'MCI norms lag behind medical advancements'

Malathy Iyer | TNN

Mumbai: In a wired world, can't teachers sitting in one medical college address students from other schools as well? This is one of the reactions from education experts to MCI's latest threat to derecognize KEM Hospital's G S Medical College.

While the new show-cause notice—issued after two action-taken reports were dispatched to the MCI's New Delhi office—predictably shocked academicians and the local medical fraternity, questions are also being raised about the need to evolve new norms that are in keeping with the present-day reality. “There is a shortage of medical teachers across the world. Why can't the MCI allow the municipal corporation to operate e-classrooms simultaneously in all its three medical schools?” asked a senior doctor who passed out of KEM 30 years ago.

Incidentally, KEM Hospital already has the infrastructure for eclassrooms in most of the lecture halls. “We are talking about teaching robotic surgery to our students, but we are stuck with old rules about having a certain number of teachers,” said former vice-chancellor of the Mumbai University Dr Snehalata Deshmukh.

She pointed out that MCI norms required an ophthalmology ward of a minimum of 30 beds. “But in today's technological-driven ophthalmology, a person with cataract operation is allowed to go home in a few hours. Why do we need such a huge ward?” she asked.

Surgeon Dr Sanjay Nagral, who is the former editor of the 'Indian Journal of Medical Ethics', said, “There are a large number of private medical colleges with poor facilities than KEM Hospital, but they seem to get away. On a relative scale, KEM Hospital offers its students a better quality of education and training.”