

7 medical colleges in TN headless

Frequent Change Of Deans Affects Functioning Of Hospitals, Say Docs

Pushpa Narayan | TNN

Chennai: Seven of the 15 government medical colleges in the state, including two premier colleges in the city, are without administrative heads. While four of them have deputy superintendents as deans (in-charge), medical colleges in Salem and Dharamapuri along with city-based Kilpauk Medical Colleges have the same dean managing the daily administration of the hospital and the medical colleges.

Dr V Kanakasabai, dean of Salem Medical College, has been given additional charges of two other colleges. "One day you will see him pushing PWD officials to repair lift in the KMC, another day he is with a team of Medical Council of India officials inspecting the Dharamapuri Medical College. For several months now, we have been

having only telephonic meetings and SMS instructions," said a senior doctor at Salem Medical College.

State's prestigious institutions like Stanley Medical College, Kilpauk Medical College, Madurai Rajaji Medical College, Coimbatore Medical College and newer colleges like Tirunelveli Medical College and Dharamapuri Medical College have been without deans for several months. "This happens even to Madras Medical College. Last year in a span of just three months, the Government General Hospital had five deans. There were deans who held office for just 12 days," said a senior doctor at Madras Medical College.

Tamil Nadu Government Doctors' Association president Dr Kanakasabapathy says they have been fighting with the government urging them to post doctors even be-

All 15 medical colleges in state to get separate heads: Health secy



V K Subburaj

about the poor facilities in the colleges only through newspapers or when students protest. We have hence decided to split administration of the two colleges," said health secretary VK Subburaj. "The panel is ready and orders will be issued within a week," he said. TNN

fore the posts fall vacant. "Unlike in the private sector, vacancies here arise only when it's time for retirement. The health department knows the date of retirement of every hospital head. If they want to, they can plan ahead and

With pressure from the Medical Council of India to improve quality of medical education in the state, the health department has decided to give all the 15 medical colleges an independent head and detach administrative powers from the hospital heads.

"At present, deans of medical colleges are also deans of the attached hospitals. Most deans are so busy with the hospitals that they neglect the medical college. We get to know

fill vacancies," he said.

Heads of departments in many colleges complain about the lack of an administrative head who can govern for a reasonable period. "With frequent change of deans, we do not have hospi-

tal-based research, policies on morbidity and mortality, or antibiotics. No hospital has ever managed to bring out quality handbooks or guidelines. Even day-to-day activities suffer: For instance, a dean conducts sanitary inspection in the hospital once every week or once in ten days. It takes at least a month to implement his instructions. By then, there is another dean with another set of instructions," a senior doctor adds.

If the hospital has only a dean-in-charge, it makes the routine even more difficult. "I look into the morbidity and mortality data but I can hardly question anybody on this. Because, I am scared that when I get back to their side when there is the new dean takes over, my colleagues would ostracise me," said a dean (in-charge).