

Medical admissions: Merit takes a dip in govt colleges

Bharat Yagnik | TNN


Ahmedabad: Admission process in government medical colleges across the state has registered a decline in the merit in academic year 2010.

Officials in the admission committee for professional courses said that all medical colleges in the state had registered a decline in merit of 1.90 marks.

This is a departure from the trend set during the past years. Officials said that the merit list has climbed down due to a number of reasons.

The prime amongst these is the poor show of students at the Gujarat Common Entrance Test (GujCET) which led to a general decline in the combined merit of the students.

"The GujCET exam proved to be a tough nut to crack. The overall marking in the GujCET was low, which led to a decline in the combined merit calculated before admissions. This is one of the major reasons for the low merit,"



Govt. Colleges	Merit Marks (in %)		
	2010	2009	2008
▶ Ahmedabad	92.13	94.10	94.95
▶ Baroda	89.54	92.28	93.92
▶ Jamnagar	87.07	89.77	92.39
▶ Surat	87.57	89.95	92.17
▶ Rajkot	87.07	89.40	92.11
▶ Bhavnagar	86.82	88.93	91.71

said an official.

Member secretary of the committee, Dr Pranav Shah said that they had noticed that unlike earlier when all meritorious students preferred admission into BJ Medical College, a big number of students were opting for colleges in Jamnagar, Vadodara, Rajkot and Surat.

"They are going for colleges close to areas they live in," he said adding, "the meritorious students are now spread out in all government medical colleges in the state."

Dean of medical faculty, Dr Haresh Bhalodiya said that the merit was also going down as medicine was losing its sheen due to the high number of education years that were required to be put in as well as the rising cost of medical education.

"Students have to study for 10 years to be super-specialised and start a good career in medicine. Moreover, the high fee charged by most trust-run and self-financed colleges is too steep, it is unaffordable for many," said Dr Bhalodiya.