

AIIMS spends Rs 1.7 cr in making one doc

Over 53% Of The Students Passing Out Of The Institute Leave India To Work Abroad

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New Delhi: It takes Rs 1.7 crore to produce a single MBBS doctor at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

This is the finding of a first-of-its-kind study submitted by AIIMS' department of hospital administration to the dean recently. The figure includes both direct (services of the faculty and stipend) and indirect (services of non-teaching personnel and furniture) costs incurred by the country's premier teaching hospital over the five-and-a-half year period.

According to the study 'Determination of the cost of training of MBBS student at AIIMS' conducted under the supervision of Dr Shakti Gupta, (HoD), department of hospital administration at AIIMS, if computed using a traditional costing method, AIIMS spends Rs 31.31 lakh on every undergraduate student per



HURRAY! Students toss their caps during the 36th convocation at AIIMS in New Delhi on Wednesday

year per course.

When calculated using the Time Driven Activity Based Costing method (TD-ABC), the study says that total costs incurred on one

MBBS student is Rs 98 lakh per course. "As against this, the annual fee of an MBBS student at AIIMS is Rs 850 per year that includes hostel and tuition fee," Dr Gupta told TOI.

W h a t ' s worse, an earlier study by the Media Study Group found that over 53% of students who pass out as doctors from AIIMS leave India to work abroad. Of the 2,129 students who passed out in the first 42 batches of the MBBS programme at AIIMS — from its inception in 1956 to 1997 —

the study team tracked down 1,477 doctors. Of them, 780 or 52.81% were found to be working abroad.

These figures made health minister A Ramadoss plead to students on Wednesday to stay back and work in the country. Addressing the annual AIIMS convocation that saw 376 degrees of which 50 were MBBS degrees being given out, Ramadoss said, "Please stay put in India. This country needs you badly. You are the best. Your country faces an acute shortage of quality doctors."

Even convocation chief guest Dr R K Pachauri echoed the same view. "If you (students) are looking at spiritual or professional satisfaction, then serving your own people in your own country, where you are needed the most, is the greatest gift you can get. The challenge is here," Dr Pachauri said.

Dr Gupta has a solution to curb such brain drain. "Medical students

who graduate from the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune have to serve in the Army for a minimum of five years or else they pay Rs 15 lakh to be allowed to practise in the private sector. Similarly, AIIMS too should think of imposing such a clause where students have to sign a bond agreeing to work in India for a certain period of time after graduating from AIIMS," Dr Gupta said.

A recent Planning Commission report said India is short of 6 lakh doctors, 10 lakh nurses and 2 lakh dental surgeons. Indian doctors, however, form 5% of the medical workforce in developed countries. Almost 60,000 Indian physicians are working in countries like US, UK, Canada and Australia alone. India has a dismal patient-doctor ratio. For every 10,000 Indians, there is one doctor. Australia has 249 doctors for every 10,000 people, Canada has 209, UK has 166 and US has 548.