

Keep tab on docs, says MCI

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The problem of doctors and professors of tertiary hospitals and medical colleges leaving work two or three hours before the end of their official duty hours of 9 am to 4 pm has not yet been tackled.

Though a register is maintained, entries can be fudged. The Medical Council of India had proposed that a biometric or iris sensor system be installed, but government medical colleges are yet to do this.

An administrative offi-

cial from a government medical college in the city admits that the hours of duty are often curtailed. "They can go for private practice only after 4 pm. However, by 1 pm most doctors are away and classes aren't held regularly. There's no machinery to check if they are in the hospital," he said.

It's not low salaries that prompt this dereliction of duty. Salaries range from ₹60,000 to ₹1 lakh per month under the revised UGC pay scales. But much more can be made by these professors and doctors who rush off to their prac-

tices in corporate hospitals when they should be taking lectures.

A postgraduate student from Gandhi Medical College, requesting anonymity, said that 50-60 per cent of the professors leave the class before the scheduled one hour is up and on some days don't turn up at all.

In private medical colleges, too, many staff and doctors exist only on paper. Vice-chairperson of the Medical Council of India, AP, Dr K. Ramesh Reddy says that MCI has proposed that digital documenting is the best way to

check this truancy. "It's often found that many of the staff exist only on the rolls but don't come for duty. Only during inspection do doctors and professors surface in private colleges. However, till now, biometric recording hasn't been implemented by the state government."

Health minister Dr D.L. Ravindra Reddy admitted that the government has received various suggestions and recommendations regarding monitoring of attendance. "We will take a decision soon in this regard," Dr Ravindra Reddy said.