

# Foreign medical colleges attract Indian students

Chinese medical education has caught the attention of aspirants in the last few years for the simple reasons like easy availability of seats, affordable fee and good academic facilities, writes R. RAVIKANTH REDDY

The season of medical admissions in the State is almost over and those who have failed to get into their dream course will now be looking for alternate options, mostly foreign countries that attract medical aspirants with lesser fee, international exposure and quality medical teaching.

Countries of former USSR have been a favourite for Indian students for decades while Chinese medical education caught the attention of aspirants in the last few years for the simple reasons like easy availability of seats, affordable fee and good academic facilities.

"While a seat in a private medical college costs no less than Rs. 30 lakhs, the same course can be completed in China or former USSR countries spending half of that," says Rajaram, Managing Partner of Medico Abroad.

Moreover, the academic period has also been reduced to five years in China and the MCI has also permitted to complete their one year apprenticeship in India making it an attractive option for Indian students," says Jaipaul Reddy of St. Joseph's Consultants.

Admission season for these countries will be completed by September. But there have been many apprehensions over the foreign educated Indian medics clearing the mandatory screening test conducted by the Medical Council of India (MCI). Mr. Rajaram says the first batch of Chinese students has now come out and they are all working in top hospitals in Hyderabad like Yashoda and Osmania General Hospital.

In fact, the first batch students vouch for the quality education provided in those countries. M. Sanjeev Kumar,



**AMONG THE BEST:** The first batch of medical students who pursued medicine in China have now come out and are all working in top hospitals. - PHOTO: R. V. MOORTHY

who completed medicine in Ukraine and now doing internship at Osmania General Hospital says quality of education is good and importantly it gives them international exposure.

"Most of my seniors are now in USA and UK practicing there after clearing their exams. In fact, we can practice in Dubai and Riyadh without clearing any exam and this vouches for the recognition of our degrees," he says.

Another factor that separates is that these countries follow the American medical

system unlike India where British system is followed. B. Venugopal Goud, who did his medicine from China is now practicing at the Yashoda Hospital in Malakpet and says Chinese medicine is much better given the quality of hospitals and exposure.

"Last year MCI team visited my college and impressed with hospital facilities advised us to complete internship there itself," he says. "Medicine is same everywhere and it depends on us how good doctors we want to be," he advises the aspirants.

G. Radhika, another Chinese medical university product and now practicing in Yashoda Hospitals in Secunderabad advises aspirants to study in China without any apprehensions. But they need to focus on education and not deviate from their career path. The Chinese package ranges from Rs. 2 two lakhs a year while in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus it ranges from Rs. 1.7 lakhs to Rs. 2.5 lakhs.

Mr. Jaipaul Reddy says most consultants who send students have also set up their own offices and tied up with Indian hotels to provide

Indian food. Parents are constantly informed about their wards' academic records and the life there. Hostels for foreign students are built with three-star facilities within the campus thus providing safety to them.

With the introduction of one year compulsory rural service for all the students studying medicine here has increased the duration of MBBS degree to almost 7 years. "But those opting for foreign medical education will get the benefit of that one year," reminds Mr. Ram.

Regarding screening test,

he says many coaching centres have come up now and this has improved the pass percentage to a great deal. Consultancies are also organising coaching classes once students come back.

The approved list of Chinese colleges is available at - <http://mciindia.org/tools/prelease/eligibility.htm> - and the Russian colleges and others at - <http://mciindia.org/know/acts/schedule3.htm> - apart from WHO website - <http://www.who.int/hrh/wdms/en/>. More information can be had on 9959114545 and 9391031865.