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SC cautions HCs on medical college admission

No interim orders for unapproved colleges: court

Ashish Tripathi

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday cautioned high courts in the country from issuing interim orders in cases of medical admissions when the college in question has not

been granted approval by the authorities.

“Such interim orders are likely to cause chaos, anarchy and uncertainty. And, there is no reason for creating such situations. There is no justification or requirement,” a two-judge bench presided over by

Justice Dipak Misra said.

‘Avert disaster’

The court said judges should avert ‘disaster’ and must not be ‘swayed by own convictions’ when there are precedents to follow.

The bench said that by such orders, an institution which has been found to be deficient by expert bodies gets a premium to admit students, who will be anxious to get admissions

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with a hope that eventually the college would obtain a propitious certificate.

The court was hearing an appeal by the Dental Council of India, which had challenged an order passed by the Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court.

The HC, by an interim order in May 2016, had allowed a Maharashtra-based college to start MDS course 'at own risk' even though the Council as

well as the central government had noted deficiencies in the institution.

The apex court set aside the HC order, saying that no permission could be given to an institution which had not been granted approval.

However, taking note of the fact that three students had been admitted by the college for academic session 2016-17 and an approval was also granted for the subsequent

session, the bench said that the college would have to adjust the three seats for 2017-18.

The court also directed the college to deposit Rs 30 lakh within eight weeks in its registry.

The bench also clarified that the money will not be extracted from the students in any manner and fixed the case in July to consider how this amount will be utilised.

DH News Service

NEET mandatory for Kerala admissions

Regulatory panel to decide on fees

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

The Kerala government has promulgated an ordinance to streamline admissions to private medical colleges and made the National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test (NEET) held by the CBSE mandatory.

The ordinance, which precedes the Kerala Medical Education (Regulation and Control of Admission to Private Medical Colleges) Bill, 2017, mandates the constitution of a committee headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or High Court to fix the fee and admission norms.

The committee would have representatives of the government and the Medical Council of India on board. The fee to be decided by the committee would be applicable for students up to the end of the course, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vi-

jayan said here on Tuesday. Any excess amount collected from students would be counted as capitation fee, he said.

Violation to attract fine

The regulatory committee would have the powers of a civil court to handle complaints about irregularities in admission and fee. It would fix the fee and finalise an agreement with the managements,

Violation of the agreement would attract a fine of up to ₹10 lakh. The committee can also cancel irregular admissions and direct the college to return the excess fee to students.

Mr. Vijayan said the ordinance was issued on the basis of the decisions taken at an all-party meeting following the Supreme Court order making the NEET exam mandatory for admission to medical colleges.

Fake certificate costs student her medical seat and five years

Racket was busted in 2013

SP Kulkarni was the administrative officer of the KEA during the CET 2012 and there were allegations of him helping candidates submit fake certificates. During CET 2013, a big racket was busted as over 150 students were caught getting seats by submitting fake documents under rural, physically handicapped and SC and ST quotas. Kulkarni was subsequently suspended.

RASHMI BELUR @Bengaluru

SUBMISSION of a fake certificate has cost a girl five years and her MBBS seat. She was supposed to receive her medical degree in the academic year 2017-18.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has withdrawn the medical seat of the student who was in the final year of MBBS in Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) in the city under the quota for the physically handicapped (PH). Interestingly, the girl's father Mahesh Babu was in the panel of experts who verified the documents submitted for the quota.

Following complaints from her relatives in 2012 about the fake certificate, the KEA initiated an inquiry, which took almost five years to complete. As it was proved during the cross verification of documents at all the levels that the girl had submitted a fake certificate though she is

physically fit, KEA withdrew the seat on April 5 this year and it has been communicated to the Medical Education Department and KIMS.

However, when contacted, the college authorities said they have not yet received any communication. KIMS principal Chandre Gowda said, "in the beginning there was a communication directing us to hold her admission. But after sometime, they (KEA) said let her continue her studies until the inquiry is over. Now she is in the final year. So far we have not received any communication about the cancellation of her seat." **MORE: P6**



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Dr Chandre Gowda, principal, KIMS

Girl's father on expert panel

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DR Mahesh Babu, father of the girl who lost her medical seat for submitting a fake physical handicap certificate, was on the panel of experts which verified the documents of students who claimed seats under disability quota.

Dr Babu is an ENT professor in

Bengaluru Medical College (BMC). "We are surprised how he was on the panel when his daughter was claiming a seat under the quota. As he was on the panel, it was easier for them to confirm the seat," said an official of the Medical Education Department.

Her father will get a notice from the Department and he may

also face suspension or more severe action from the government, the official said. There is another question which is not answered: How did she get the certificate for physical handicap though she is fit? To claim seats under PH quota, candidates should submit certificates obtained from the district surgeon.