RECONSIDER NExT- IMA

NMC has announced an exit examination for all MBBS students in the country. The exam will be taken by the students in 2 stages: NExT 1 and NExT 2 .This examination will be their final MBBS exam, licentiate exam and post graduate selection exam. Amongst several other challenges to the students it is badly designed . IMA warns that NExT will be a disaster for the country. IMA opposes and rejects NEXT for the following reasons:

1) India is a country with vast rural hinterland. Equity amongst its citizens with varying scales of socio economic status is the only option in nation building. Common tests for all medical students is not the right approach to achieve common minimum standards in medical education and care. Common exams would deprive the poor, rural, under privileged and marginalised sections of their right to learn and practise medicine.
2) Attempting to impose a high brow elitist standardisation of an exit exam before achieving unform entrance level standards as well as uniform teaching and infrastructural standards is grossly unfair. It amounts to putting the cart before the horse. The results could be disastrous to the country and its medical education. Considerable proportion of the medical students will end up in no mans' land.
3) Bringing in MCQ type questions in NExT will bring in the private coaching centres into the picture. Students will opt to sit back skipping classes to learn the rope tricks of methodology. The regular medical teachers will become irrelevant and redundant.
4) MCQs are an accepted methodology for competitive exams. Licensing exams have a totally different context and purpose. Blindly imitating the western countries is unfortunate. Our country has high standards in medical education and care. This betrays a colonial hangover in policy making and worse a cut and paste attitude.
5) It is not acceptable to evaluate the students for their capacity to be a basic doctor(Licentiate exam) and to choose the best amongst them for further studies(P.G selections) all at once in a single exam. How this exam will

capture the two varying levels of skill and competency simultaneously is unknown.

6) This will end up placing inappropriate stress on students preparing for obtaining license. At the same time it will be unfair to the students who prepare for competing for post graduate selection. The students who are already under severe stress find the new system even more stressful. This exam will make medical studies difficult for no reason .Even completing the course successfully wouldn't guarantee them the right to practise medicine. This is gross injustice to our medical students.

Indian Medical Association and its Medical Students Network are deeply concerned on NExT being inflicted unilaterally on the nation. The whole exercise of NExT has been grossly one sided affair without listening to the legitimate concerns of the medical students and the profession. IMA rejects NExT in toto for its anti students content. IMA requests the Government of India to freeze the idea of NExT and hold consultations with the representatives of the medical students and the profession.