



Minutes of the Interactive Session on 20th April 2019

Interaction between Dr.Abhijat Sheth, President NBE, Dr.Rashmikant Dave, Vice President and Hon.Executive Director NBE and the representatives of NBE Institutions in the presence of Dr. Alexander Thomas, President, ANBAI and Dr. Venkatesh Krishnamoorthy, President, ANBAI Karnataka Chapter.

Moderator - Dr. MuraliChakravarthy - Chief of Anesthesia Services - Fortis Hospital, Bangalore

Dr.Abhijath Sheth briefed the audience regarding the current status of Post graduate medical Education in our Country and the role being played by NBE and its efforts in enhancing the availability of Specialists. He observed that by 2025 India would require 1.4lakh specialists and the Post Graduate intake has to increase to 22000/year by 2025. Majority of the hospitals in India are privately owned and every bed has to be effectively utilised for Academic purposes, promoting Post Graduate Medical Education. District hospitals are also to be utilised for starting NBE courses.

He also stated that the Army hospitals have submitted a list of 600 retired Post Graduate teachers who are readily available for purposes of teaching.

While speaking about Family Medicine as a speciality, he emphasised that it should be accredited and students should be posted in various departments by rotation along with around 9 months postings in PHC, CHC and the Public Health Systems in order to give them all around orientation.

In the Private Sector, infrastructure being very good, issues relating to increasing cost of Medical education and faculty shortage has to be effectively tackled in order to effectively utilise the facilities available.

Specialists with foreign Post Graduate qualification, which is duly recognized by the Medical Council of India, and with the required experience, can be considered as Post Graduate Medical Teachers maintaining quality.

The hike in tuition fees from Rs 80000 to 1.2 lakh will enable the Institution to provide improved library reference material.

There is also a need for sub specialities and fellowship programmes..

The Specialist Boards for curriculum formation should be constituted out in a professional way.

Before 2023 Medical ethics is to be included in the curriculum as per the WHO standards

Dr. Abhijat Seth also informed that while ensuring standards of medical education – objectives to be achieved are

- a. Increase in the number of seats
- b. Increase Family Medicine / Emergency Medicine seats



- c. Increase PG seats in all MBBS colleges
- d. Increase career prospects.
- e. Equated and fair exam with good outcome
- f. New subjects with best practices into NBE to upskill
- g. NBE courses being very streamlined and the process of examination being transparent maintains quality.
- i. NBE has a user friendly website
- j. Students with higher calibre are opting for NBE courses
- k. The pass percentages are realistic
- l. The National Board of Examinations is very communicative, and is more open to questions, and ready to participate in open forum such as this.

The first set of questions were from Fortis Hospital:

Can FAT score can be included as a part of final score

Dr. Rashmikant Dave said that they are in the process of looking at including a part of the FAT score in the final scoring.

Next: Can thesis acceptance and rejection happen well ahead of time, instead of the present 18-24 months later.

To that they gave an interesting answer: Henceforth thesis protocol acceptance will be at the Institutional level. The Ethics Committee will accept the protocol. National Board has got nothing to do in that. It is upto the students to send the thesis on time, so that they don't have tension during exam.

Next: Why moderate topics, complicated topics are published or not accepted. They said the answer to the previous question also answered this that the Institution has to decide what type of papers are to be accepted.

Rangadore Memorial Hospital: Can MRCP and MRCOG qualified consultants be accepted as teachers ?

Dr. Abhijat Sheth had already informed before this Question & Answer session, that MRCP and MRCOG are acceptable, and they are also working with the Medical Council of India, to get a formal approval from them.

Next: Can part time consultants could be allowed as teachers ?

They were categorical - 'No'. It has to be full time.

Next: Clarification questions about rejection of their application to the DNB Medicine Course etc



The dignitaries on the dais said that this could be sorted out through the website. Each Institution has a password, through which they could login, and it could be done.

Next question: whether the students of Anesthesia could be trained in another hospital which is accredited for Urology.

Dr. Abhijat Sheth was very clear that the Anesthesia students has to be trained in an Institute which is accredited for training in Anesthesia. Merely being an accredited hospital for some other subject does not qualify the Institute to teach all specialities.

Dr. Parimala Maroor from the State Institute of Health and Family Welfare asked whether there was any need for clarification on reservation of DNB seats for in service doctors.

Dr. Abhijat Sheth said that they have already discussed with the State Governments. The Government will establish the criteria and its candidates will be chosen. There will be no form of reservation for any other categories.

Dr. Emmanuel James from St. Marthas Hospital: Is NBE considering establishing regional centres in the council.

Dr. Abhijat Sheth said that they already have regional centres for conducting exams. But they will have centres with more power. There will also be more regional centres.

Dr. James also asked if the time allotted for submission of applications could be increased.

Dr. Rashmikant Dave said that now applications are received twice a year – January and July. So this problem will not be there. However, he said if a special application is made, the deadline can be extended, after consideration.

Dr. Maneesh Sinha from NU Trust Hospital raised a pertinent question that the DNB teachers should be the DNB examiners.

Dr. Abhijat Sheth very clearly mentioned that those who wished to become examiners for National Board should apply in the National Board Website with their Institution details; with a recommendation from the Institution. They are trying to increase the pool of examiners from DNB teachers. Since they don't have adequate pool, examiners are chosen from M Ch examiners.

Dr. Patil from Bagalkot wanted to know if the DNB webcast that happens on Wednesdays, can be provided as a video, instead of a silent PPT. Dr. Abhijat Sheth said they are likely to have a channel for teaching DNB students, that is a television channel which is 24/7. Also they may look at streaming these videos. They said they cannot promise but they will look into it.

Next: Dr. Patil had the same question about the thesis, this was reported already answered.



Research methodology classes are held after submission of the protocol and the request from Dr. Patil was to conduct it before the submission of the thesis which the National Board representatives agreed.

Dr. Patil also wanted to know if there can be broad division of syllabus in the theory papers, such as basic sciences, etc.

Dr. Rashmikant Dave replied that there is this segregation already, according to which the papers are set. They suggested that he should check the website.

Dr. Shakuntala Baliga wanted to know whether students are eligible for the full maternity leave of 3 months. This was clarified categorically. The course is for a total period 3 years. All students are entitled to 30 days leave in a year, other than the regular holidays. It could be for any reason. It totals to 90 days in 3 years. If a student avails of leave more than these 90 days, the course will be extended to such time as they complete the 3 years. Only after it is done, will they be allowed to appear for their practical exam.

There may be exceptions in individual cases. For this, they will have to write to the Executive Director, NBE, to find out about the candidates eligibility to take the exam.

Dr. Sudhir, Chinmaya Mission Hospital: asked if registrars can be replaced by other inhouse consultants.

Answer: 'No'. Consultants have to be full time and as per the criteria of the National Board. The same question from Dr. Ajith, Trivandrum.

There was one more question: If a secondary seat is not filled, can that seat be given to post MBBS or primary candidate. They were asking if swapping of primary and secondary seat can be done.

The answer: 'No'. If a secondary candidate does not come, that seat will go waste. We cannot attend the primary candidates.

Dr. Srividya was asking as a faculty in Family Medicine. Has an increase in the Family Medicine seats been proposed.

Dr. Abhijat Sheth said 'Yes'. This is a Government of India directive. The Institutions which are applying for the Family Medicine seats, the criteria will be liberalised and more number of Family Medicine seats will be given.

There was a question about reducing the Institutional fee of 2 Lakhs to NBE.

National Board said they have not increased the fee in a long time but have extended validity to 5 years. For an Institution, 2 lakh per application, once in 5 years is not much.

Eligibility criteria of Family Medicine, DNB number of beds and faculty was asked. Dr. Abhijat Sheth said that it is under discussion and will be decided soon. Once it is completed, it will be published in the website.

Dr. Srimurthy asked questions about students evaluation of teachers and teachers assessment of DNB student. The National Board replied that they are in the process of formalising it. Till then this is not yet there. However, it will be in the syllabus.



DNB trainers should be examiners. Not MS examiners which was already answered to Dr. Maneesh question.

Video demonstration on how a examination is conducted, he wanted that to be shown. It is to be considered favourably.

Can a very busy practitioner be a teacher? The National Board representatives answered - as long as the teacher is spending enough time teaching the students, whether busy or earning more money is does not matter.

Can Diploma candidates with more than 10 years' experience become guides - 'No'

For specialities like Ophthalmology, can there be a relaxation in the number of beds days. 'Yes' Please refer to the website.

Dr. ShivaramSubramaniam from Trivandrum - Applied for DNB, he wanted some clarification - he was asked to refer the website

There was discussion about the emergency medicine.

Dr. Venkatesh – Apollo Hospital - The specialist like MD General Medicine, Anesthesia are becoming teachers. Only emergency medicine qualified person should be teachers

Dr. Abhijat Sheth said that this is as per the recommendation of the committees that has been formed for ER and they are following what is done. If more number CER qualified teachers are there they can be the teachers

Dr. Asha Benakappa – Some of the hospitals which do not have clinical material have become accredited

Dr. Abhijat Sheth said any hospital without much work will be disqualified.

There were other few unread questions, this will be sent to the National Board for their report.

Dr. Nanjundappa – General Hospital Jayanagar - If a candidate report to the seat and never turns up what to do? Will the seat be allotted to some other person? What are the guidelines for payment of stipend during extension period?

In some cases Junior Consultants with years of experience is getting less paid than fresh graduate under NRHM scheme. Any remedy

Last year more than 3 months of rotational posting to other hospitals was called as a non-compliance. This year 6 to 18 months of rotational positing is not taken as non-compliance. Please confirm.

Research orientation to be held within 3 months, which was discussed earlier. They have considered that they will have the research orientation before the submission of the thesis protocol.



Dr. Prabhu from Dharwad - Government District Hospital, Karnataka – shortage of faculty in Government Hospital is being sternly addressed by DNB. Welcome decision. But as an after effect supportive services like laboratory, blood bank, radiology, OT, how to cope with this situation.

What NBE has to say regarding mandatory manpower in support services department?

No July admission for broad specialities. Is it from this year or next year? If it is this year, can you consider giving the seats this January?

These are the questions National Board will answer