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I have **lost one** of my twin babies, now the **other is battling** for life too

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# MBBS graduates from abroad face a hard road to licence, respect

Durgesh Nandan Jha | TNN | Updated: Oct 1, 2018, 09:01 IST

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- Medical graduates from China, Ukraine, Russia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and other countries can't practice in India unless they clear the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination (FMGE)
- The test is conducted by the MCI twice a year
- Annually, over 5,000 students opt for medical degrees abroad because of low cost and ease of admission, among other reasons

NEW DELHI: It is unusual for medical graduates in India to be embarrassed around their relatives. But Kumar Gaurav, who completed his MBBS in March 2016, has not visited his Bihar hometown in two years. His relatives had once made fun of him because he couldn't practice despite having a medical degree. And that had stabbed him right in his heart.

Gaurav went to a medical college in Nepal, but graduates from that country can't practice in India unless they clear the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination (FMGE), a screening test conducted by the Medical Council of India twice a year. This applies to graduates from institutions in other countries as well, such as China, Ukraine, Russia, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

Fresh graduates return to India and join the ranks of those who have been trying to pass the test. It's a tough life.

Chhattarpal Vasisth, who did his MBBS from Ukraine, is now enrolled in a coaching institute in South Delhi to crack the screening test. The 26-year-old comes from a small village in Haryana's Bhiwani, and the first to be a doctor from there. "I could not get admission in government medical colleges. Private colleges charged over Rs 50 lakh. In Ukraine, it cost me less than Rs 20 lakh, including hostel fees," he says.

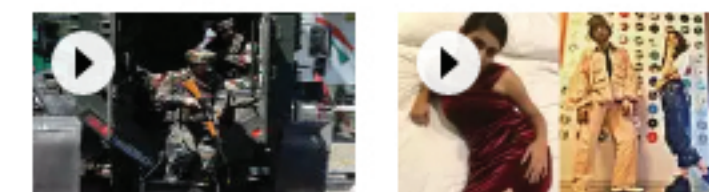
Like Gaurav and Vasisth, more than 5,000 young men and women opt for medical degrees abroad every year because of low cost and ease of admission, among other reasons. China is the most popular destination, followed by Russia, Ukraine, Nepal, Kazakhstan and Bangladesh. Some even go to Pakistan.

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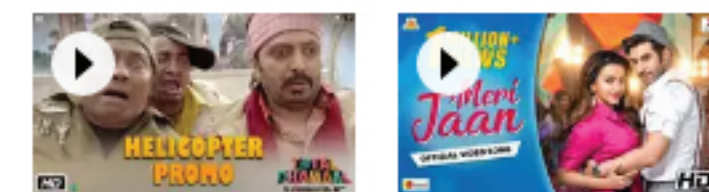


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