

# Just 4 govt school students make it to MBBS

Pushpa Narayan | Updated: Aug 21, 2018, 10:15 IST

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Representative image

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu has 22 state-run medical colleges, offering 2,447 MBBS seats, but a mere four candidates from government schools have gained admission to them this year. Although, statistically, it is a 100% rise from last year when just two candidates made the cut, government school students have bagged an abysmal 0.16% of available MBBS seats this year.

In 2016, when admissions were based on Class XII marks alone, a total of 30 government school students secured MBBS seats. With just two more seats in government colleges available for mop-up counselling to be held on August 23, data released by state selection committee shows a steep 80% fall compared to 2016 admissions.

The performance of government-aided schools is slightly better — 26 students joined MBBS courses.

"NEET has left behind a section of students who can't afford to pay high fees under the management quota or in deemed universities. Even with special training it may take a few years before they compete with students passing out of private schools," said Doctors for Social Equality general secretary Dr G R Ravindranath.

Errors in Tamil question papers were the biggest disadvantage for government school students, said K Kamatchi, a Class XII biology teacher. "We encouraged many students to take the exam in Tamil. But 49 questions were wrong. The high court order to offer 196 additional marks was also turned down by the Supreme Court," she said.

Admission to all medical and dental colleges is conducted by the state committee based on NEET-2018 marks, in accordance with the 69% reservation for backward and SC/ST communities. But admission to MBBS courses in the state was tougher in 2018 compared to 2017, and the last student from a reserved category to enter a state-run medical college in the state this year had a score of 200 in NEET, as compared to 161 in 2017. The difference in scores compared to last year was the smallest among ST category (39) and widest among MBCs (88). For open category, it is 42 marks higher than last year.

Selection committee secretary G Selvarajan said half the number of students admitted to MBBS courses in 2018 were break-year students. "There were 1,680 students who passed Class XII in 2017, and 120 who passed in 2016. Nearly 51% of the students have taken a break to better their NEET scores," he said. The new trend, however, is MBBS aspirants opting to write NEET for the second time.

The NEET-2018 topper scored 676 marks — 20 more than last year. Eighty-one students scored above 550 in NEET in both 2017 and 2018. But there are 213 students who got 500 or more compared to 203 students last year. The gap widened as the scores went down. For instance, there were 1,279 students above 400 compared to 1,466 last year and 4,791 above 300 compared to 2,569 last year.

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John Bosco

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On Monday, the committee said it would hold the mop-up counselling on Thursday to fill two seats in government medical colleges, 19 others in self-financing medical colleges and 9 seats in government dental colleges.

A detailed schedule for the mop-up will be hosted on [www.tnhealth.org/](http://www.tnhealth.org/) [www.tnmedicalselection.org](http://www.tnmedicalselection.org).

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