

NIOS students led by orphan move Delhi High Court against MCI debarment from NEET

Shikha Salaria | TNN | Feb 27, 2018, 23:44 IST

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NOIDA: Around 30 students of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) have moved the Delhi High court against the decision of the Medical Council of India (MCI) debaring them from appearing in the 2018 NEET exam seeking that the MCI decision is set aside.

TOI had reported on February 14 that the 'sudden decision' of the MCI stating learners from

NIOS would not be at par with those from the regular mode has created panic among the open school students who had been preparing for the examination for over two years for selection in MBBS/BDS courses.

The decision taken in an executive meeting of the MCI on September 26 last year was conveyed to the NIOS authorities on November 3- three months before the last date of application for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET). This led to panic among those students who had prepared for the exam for the past few years.

There are around 30,000 students from 25 regional centres of the NIOS who will appear for the class XII board exams in the medical stream in April, many of whom were expected to register for the NEET.

The petition has been filed by an orphan Rakshanda Surana who is a Gurgaon-based NIOS student along with 29 other students who are preparing for the NEET exam.

"I wanted to become a doctor and started preparing for NEET in 2014. It was not very easy as I do not have monetary help from anyone. However, just 60 days before the exam, I got to know that NIOS students have been debarred by the MCI from appearing in NEET this year. All of us are really distracted and could not focus on our preparation," said Rakshanda who is working in an eating joint in Cyber Hub to fund her education.

"The exclusion of students who have passed 10+2 from Open School, private candidates and students who have not undertaken two years of regular and continuous study of Physics, Chemistry, Biology/Bio-Technology at 10+2 level, from admission to medical colleges is arbitrary, illegal and violative of Article 14,16 and 21 of the Constitution of India," reads the petition.



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The petition also alleges that the MCI has chosen to accept a degree from one board established by the HRD ministry, i.e. CBSE but arbitrarily chosen to reject degree of another, i.e. NIOS and Open Schools established by state governments.

"Moreover, the MCI has chosen to accept the degree conferred by an independent board, i.e. Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), which is not recognized by any State or statutory authority but left out the candidates of recognized Open School Boards," it says.

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Amit Kumar, advocate for the students has said that the matter has been listed for hearing in the court of justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Chander Shekhar for Wednesday.

The students have sought that the CBSE be directed to allow the open school students to appear for the NEET exam for which the last date of application is March 9.

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