

Career growth

Postgraduation as a natural career progression for the allopathic cadre

“I have not really thought of any job after this course...only of institutes to which I can apply for PG.”

(Allopathic student, female, undergraduate, urban private school, AP)

“No MBBS person will like to settle with only an MBBS. There is no term like a general doctor or a general surgeon, everything is broken now, everything is specialized...” (Allopathic student, 27, male, post graduate, urban public school, AP)

“Society doesn’t recognize an MBBS. Obviously if you have money, you would not like to go to a less qualified doctor.” (Allopathic student, 22, female, urban private school, UK)

“As a simple MBBS doctor without PG degree, you don’t get much options in city and being a plain MBBS doctor, if you work in city you don’t have much status.” (Allopathic student, 25, female, postgraduate, urban private school, UK)

Medical students: Why working in a PHC is a dead-end for their careers

“After MBBS we do not have enough knowledge, we cannot deal with patients directly. We are just beginners.” (Allopathic student, 22, male, undergraduate, urban public school, AP)

“If a doctor goes to a PHC, today it is actually like a dead-end. There are no x-rays or ultrasound or anything. So he refers all the cases to tertiary hospitals. He only treats basic ailments.” (Allopathic student, male, 23, urban public school, AP)

“I think recognition is one point. Generally, a PHC working doctor is considered inferior by a doctor in urban area.” (MBBS student, AP)

“Only simple headache and fever, these can be only treated there (at a PHC). Everything else is referred to higher centers. You don’t need postgraduates to do referral.” (Allopathic student, 27 years, male, post graduate, rural public school, AP)

“If I am sitting in a rural PHCs and doing only five basic tests, then my PG knowledge is a waste.” (Allopathic student, 28, female, postgraduate, urban private school, UK)

Nursing and Ayurvedic cadre: Jobs at PHCs aid learning

“In a primary health center, you’ll get to know what is really going on in health. Rather than in the private sector.” (Ayurvedic doctor, female, experience: 6 years, upbringing: city, AP)

“At PHC level nurses get opportunity to work as midwife...which is a good exposure and will help me gain experience and enable me to conduct deliveries confidently and independently.” (Nurse, female, experience: 5 years, upbringing: rural, UK)

“Theory is different from practical—so if we doing the job we can learn more and more.” (Nursing student, 20, female urban private school, AP)
