

Minister of Health & family Welfare  
The National Medical Commission (NMC)  
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS)

## **Subject: Proposal to Address Challenges in NEXT Examination Implementation**

### **Background**

The NEXT examination is designed as a 100% multiple-choice question (MCQ) format. However, the National Medical Commission (NMC) currently limits theory examinations to 20% MCQs, impacting the ability of medical colleges to fully adopt this examination format.

### **Challenges**

1. **Inconsistent Testing Formats:** The NMC's restriction on MCQs limits the effectiveness of assessing medical students' knowledge in a standardized manner.
2. **Global Standards:** Countries like the USA have successfully implemented 100% MCQ examinations, such as the USMLE, which shows a high pass rate (approximately 96%).
3. **Transition Issues:** The shift from traditional assessment formats (essays, short answers) to MCQs requires a gradual approach to ensure student preparedness.

### **Proposed Solutions**

1. **Incremental Increase in MCQs:**
  - o **Year 1:** Increase the percentage of MCQs from 20% to 40%.
  - o **Year 2:** Increase to 60%.
  - o **Year 3:** Increase to 80%.
  - o **Year 4:** Achieve 100% MCQs in examinations.
2. **Adjusting Pass Rates:**
  - o Establish a pass rate for the NEXT examination aligned with average MBBS final examinations, set at approximately 85% to 90%.
  - o This approach mirrors the historical transition in the USA when they shifted to an all-MCQ format in 1956, ensuring that the change in assessment style does not adversely affect student performance.

### **Conclusion**

Implementing these changes will align India's medical examination system with global standards, improve assessment efficacy, and better prepare students for their medical careers.

Your consideration of this proposal will be pivotal in enhancing the NEXT examination's effectiveness and ensuring its successful implementation.

Regards

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