

Current Postgraduate Orthopedic Medical Education and Orthopedic Research in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is a developed state in Indian healthcare sector. In Tamil Nadu, orthopedic medical education is taught in the medical colleges affiliated to universities and hospitals governed by the National Board of Examination, New Delhi. Medical colleges are governed by state universities and deemed universities. At present, there are 35 government medical colleges and 34 private medical colleges in Tamil Nadu. On an average, in Tamil Nadu 298 postgraduate seats are coming out every year. Every year, in the government medical college alone 138 seats, private nondeemed medical institutions 35 seats, deemed universities in Tamil Nadu 93 seats and from National Board 32 seats, come out. Regarding the curriculum, the National Medical Commission has come with competency-based medical education now. The volume of patient load varies from government colleges to private medical colleges. In the government colleges the volume of patient load is more since the treatment is free of cost and there is no hard and fast rule. Moreover, the surgical training must be good in the government medical colleges since the patient load is more. The patient load in nonmedical college hospitals varies from place to place. Regarding the examination part, for government medical colleges and affiliated medical colleges, the Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University conducts examination in a transparent way. For deemed universities, exam is conducted by them on their own.

In Tamil Nadu, Father of Orthopedic Research is none other than Prof TK Shanmugasundaram. Prof Mayil Vahanan Natarajan did extensive research in orthopedic oncology and Dr S Rajasekaran did pioneering research in Spine. No wonder both of them did postgraduation under Prof TK Shanmugasundaram.

In Tamil Nadu, in Dr MGR Medical University, orthopedic postgraduates must have a minimum of 50 credit points earned during their postgraduate training period to appear for the final examination and each postgraduate have to submit one E-journal to enlighten their research activities. The Tamil Nadu Orthopaedic Association conducts annual conference every year for 3 days—an opportunity for the postgraduates to present their academic activities.

There is a need to have a common exit examination conducted by an agency so that the postgraduate standard will be uniform all over India.

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