



## Curriculum Integrated NExT Coaching

### Theory of the Practice

It has been observed that the medical graduates in general enroll themselves for specific postgraduate examination coaching after they complete their internship. The training for PG NEET examination is for a period of one year. There are various modalities of coaching offered by dozens of institutions spread all over India. The operative mode of these institutions is either postal or virtual assessments in the form of test papers or physical classes conducted on weekends at selected centres.

National Exit Test is the final year MBBS exam conducted centrally for MBBS students in medical colleges in India & abroad. The students will have to pass NEXT after completing final year MBBS in India or abroad. Thus, NEXT replaces NEET-PG & FMGE (MCI Screening Test). PG seats (MD/ MS/ Diploma/ DNB) will be allocated based on ranking in NEXT.

Narayana Medical College is introducing innovative & quick learning methodologies to fully equip the MBBS students to confidently and strategically prepare for the most important concepts from National Exit Test (NEXT) point of view while ensuring depth & full coverage of the syllabus. It is proposed to offer the students an innovative hybrid methodology of sustained coaching for NExT to selected students. The coaching consists of physical lectures and assessments conducted every weekend. The physical lectures consist of discussion and review of the syllabus completed during the past 3 weeks and the test performance. Wherever possible, physical test discussions and syllabus reviews shall be conducted. In situations where prefixed physical presence is not convenient, online test discussions shall be encouraged.

  
Principal  
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## Objectives of the Practice

1. To transform the life of MBBS student easier, more interesting & more fruitful with the use of latest technology in addition to the regular classroom coaching.
2. To enhance the chances of NExT qualifying students' number from Narayana Medical College
3. To improve the NExT scoring among qualified students so that there shall be increased chances of admission at National/ Premier Medical Institutions.
4. To increase the number of students securing admission in clinical branches
5. To improve the students' performance at the University examination

## The Context

The number of students qualifying at the NEET-PG examination every year is hovering around 10-20%. Previously there were attempts to impart NEET-PG training in the campus to those MBBS graduates who are undergoing the internship program. However, such attempts were not successful. The main reason quoted by the organisers of the coaching is lack of attendance of the trainees. The trainees in turn expressed dissatisfaction over the online coaching. The trainees preferred physical coaching available at Chennai, Hyderabad rather than in-house coaching. In order to address these problems, all the stakeholders were contacted and discussed. Based on the recommendations of discussion, this program is planned.

It is also assumed that the existing faculty are potentially competent to teach the syllabus prescribed by the University but are handicapped in offering coaching necessary for the NExT. The recent question pattern at the NEET PG examination indicates that the USMLE pattern is being replicated. The USMLE pattern is based on problem solving and case scenarios. The recall type of questions is limited. In order to acquire the competence to solve the case based/ scenario-based questions, special coaching is mandatory. This target-oriented training can be offered by specialised organisations with adequate experience.

  
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The salient features of the proposed program shall be as follows

1. The training program shall be integrated with the current curriculum
2. It shall be aligned with the curriculum in time and space
3. It is to be offered throughout the MBBS course on continuum basis
4. Experts in NEET-PG/ NExT examinations but not the regular faculty shall offer this training

### **The Practice**

The success of such a training course spanning over 4 ½ years requires persistence and limited number of beneficiaries. The outcomes shall improve if selected students are provided with coaching for the NExT examination. These students are intrinsically motivated and their interests are protected and sustained. Hence, the beneficiaries for this training need to be selected based on the criteria discussed above. It is decided that from every class 50 students shall be selected based on their performance at formative assessments.

In order to accommodate the additional teaching and training hours for the NExT coaching, it is necessary to expand the existing per day teaching hours for the students. The exercise to accommodate the required number of teaching hours for each subject in 5 days has been undertaken. Saturday is designated to conduct the weekly test (formative assessment) based on the topics covered during the past 3/ 4 weeks and an additional test based on case scenarios/ case studies (NExT pattern). The regular teaching and training shall start from 8.00 am instead of 9.00 am for all the clinical years. Faculty member who is responsible for the teaching between 8.00 am to 9.00 am can report at 8.00 am and is allowed to leave at 3.00 pm. The exercise undertaken for first, second year time table indicated that expanding the regular per day time table and allocating half day on Saturday for formative assessment and NExT coaching is feasible.

### **Evidence of Success**

As this program is well planned incorporating the views of all the stakeholders, the program is successful. Even the teachers/ facilitators are well experienced in coaching, students expressed satisfaction. Trainees felt that the teachers approach towards the subject is exemplary and is comprehensive. The participatory methods of this need-based training are well appreciated.

### Problems encountered and Resources required

The faculty has to reach Nellore from Chennai. The nearest airport is 100-150 kms away. The accessibility for conducting physical classes by the experienced faculty located at various places in India is the main stumbling block of this program.

Second hurdle is the financial resources. The expenditure incurred in arranging the classes by experienced faculty need to be borne by the institute. Levying additional fee for the students is legally prohibited. Hence, the institute have to allocate additional revenue for this program. As this this the initial year, the management of Narayana Educational Institutions agreed to repay the expenditure.

### Notes (optional)

As the NTR University of Health Sciences also introduced multiple choice questions as a part of the theory examination questions, it is mandatory for the faculty to teach the methods of answering the MCQs. So this program has the dual advantage of preparing the students to improve their performance at the University examination as well as the NEET-PG/ NExT examination.

  
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