



“BRIDGES to MBBS & BEYOND,” GOSUMEC Foundation USA Scholarships

SELECTION PANEL REPORT

Date: Nov 03, 2023

Venue: Seth G.S. Medical College

Selection Panel:

Our selection panel consists of three eminent senior professors,

- i) Dr. D. Shenvi (Head of Department - Physiology),
- ii) Dr. Lopa Mehta (Former Head of Department - Anatomy), and
- iii) Dr. Ravi Ramakantan (Former Head of Department - Radiology).

We undertook the responsibility of conducting interviews with financially challenged students as part of the selection process for the “BRIDGES to MBBS & BEYOND,” GOSUMEC Foundation USA Scholarships.

Background and Existing Support:

The fee structure for the first year of the MBBS program at our institution varies among different student categories.

Open category students are obligated to pay a fee of Rs. 144,450.

However, the government extends substantial fee subsidies to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), defined as families with an income of less than Rs. 800,000, reducing their fee to Rs. 81,600.

Special Category students (SC/ST/NT/OBC) and Orphan category students enjoy an even more significant subsidy, with a fee of only Rs. 14,600.

Additionally, students opting for hostel accommodations benefit from a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 4,000 per annum.

To provide further support to students, alternative scholarships for textbook expenses are made available through the Indian Medical Association.



Scholarship Selection and Assessment: A Closer Look at the 17 Applicants.

The comprehensive assessment encompassed various aspects of the students' financial backgrounds, including family incomes, performance in standardized tests (NEET entrance), family structure including number of siblings, living arrangements, and interview discussions.

Initially, 17 students applied for the scholarships. However, two students were disqualified due to family incomes exceeding the scholarship threshold of Rs. 600,000, and another student was deemed ineligible based on the combined family income, including her brother's, exceeding the same threshold. As a result, three candidates were excluded during the vetting process.

The remaining 14 interviewed candidates all demonstrated significant financial difficulties. Our assessment of these candidates revealed distinct categories of need:

Two (2) students from the Open category had a higher fee schedule but did not require support for boarding and lodging, and their educational materials were already covered by an alternate scholarship. These students have specific financial needs distinct from others.

Two (2) Orphan category students, who had lost both their parents during childhood and were currently supported by their paternal uncles, required assistance beyond markedly subsidized tuition fees, including textbooks, boarding, and lodging.

Six (6) students fell under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category, a special Open category with an income threshold of less than Rs. 800,000, making them eligible for government-subsidized tuition fees. However, they still needed support for textbooks, boarding, and lodging.

Four (4) students belonged to special categories (OBC, SC, ST, NTD & NTB) and faced severe financial distress, with a combined family income of less than Rs.100,000. These medical students were struggling to meet their daily expenses, including food. They lacked access to individual study materials and, in some cases, had to skip meals.

**Discussion:**

After a thorough review, our committee unanimously agreed that all 14 of these students deserve support, each with varying needs.

Upon further analysis of the fee structure, textbook requirements, living arrangements and assistance with meals, complemented by an array of financial aid options, has empowered us to allocate the equivalent of seven (7) student scholarships, benefiting Fourteen (14) students facing severe challenges.

This approach not only addresses their specific needs but also enables a broader group of students to benefit from the generous contributions of our six donors.

Conclusion:

We have granted a \$2500 scholarship to a pair of students, effectively allowing donors to support two students with the same annual donation of \$2,500 each. This arrangement ensures that each pair of students can receive a total scholarship of \$10,000 to cover their expenses during their MBBS course.

We are grateful to the donors, who unanimously agreed to our proposed scholarship allocation for these deserving students. Your support will undoubtedly make a significant difference in their lives and help them pursue their medical education without financial barriers.