

Addressing the concerns with NEET

What is the issue?

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National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) is distressing rural students with medical aspirations, the test needs a reform.

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What is the basis of NEET?

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- NEET is based on a core curriculum approach, whereby the syllabi of all the school boards have been taken into consideration.

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- It has been prepared by the CBSE, Council of Boards of School Education, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and adopted by the Medical Council of India.

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What are the issues with Indian education system?

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- India doesn't have a common core curriculum, there are 50 different boards.

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- There are wide variations with regard to curriculum design, curriculum transaction and curriculum evaluation among these boards.

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- No significant efforts had been taken so far to bring some sort of uniformity in these curriculums.

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- Only few state boards have prepared their content in tune with the curriculum of national boards, particularly in science subjects, but many of them have not fallen in line.

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What are the issues with NEET?

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 - There are allegations that NEET is infringing upon the state governments' power to hold admissions in the medical colleges funded by them.
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 - Students from some of the state boards are at a disadvantage from progressive boards.
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 - Students in rural India and those studying in state government-run schools seem to have a lesser chance of success.
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 - These examinations do not test the attitude and aptitude of the students correctly.
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 - There is more concentration of students from national boards clearing the exam.
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 - At present a candidate can claim domicile in more than one state, which makes the admission process lengthy and allows scope for malpractices.

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What can be done?

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 - It is the best “coached”, not the best “talent”, who cracks such a type of exam, Central and state governments must provide best in class coaching for such exams.
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 - Typology of the questions and design of the question paper must be changed to improve the situation.
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 - Upper age limit may be fixed to ensure the quality of future doctors.

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 - Uniform domicile rule needs to be adopted so that candidate must claim seat only in his/her state, this will maintain state autonomy.

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- Vacant seats can be filled later through a central counselling such that all the candidates are allotted seats as per their merit.

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Source: Business Standard

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