

5th May, 2021

Through e-Mail

Shri Jai Ram Thakur
Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh

Subject: In response to the 'princely' amount of Rs. 1500 & Rs. 3000 offered to clinicians

Respected Sir,

We at the Health Parliament- A think Tank on Evidence-Based Policymaking, would like to draw your attention towards the financial incentive that is being offered to the final year medical and nursing students for providing services at COVID hospitals in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

As per media reports, on Tuesday, 4th May 2021, the government of Himachal Pradesh has announced that fourth and fifth-year MBBS students, contractual doctors and junior/senior residents would be provided with an incentive of Rs. 3,000 per month and nursing students, General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) third-year students and contractual lab staff would be provided with an incentive of Rs. 1,500 per month for providing services at COVID Hospitals.

This meagre incentive is unfair and does not do justice to the efforts put by our frontline workers in the fight against COVID. The daily wage in India is more than this. At this time when India is hit by COVID-21, it has stretched our healthcare system and frontline workers beyond the limit. It will demotivate healthcare workers and discourage future generations from choosing this noble profession. Healthcare workers will look for better-paying opportunities abroad if we don't change the current situation where the frontline workers are over-worked and under-paid.

The current pandemic situation has exposed our healthcare system, and by underpaying them, we are actually encouraging the wrongdoings in the system. Why would these clinicians who have worked hard for qualifying the entrance, investing years for studying, and spend loads of money, would risk their lives just for Rs. 1500-3000! The government should rather motivate these frontline workers and the Centre and State both should incentivise them with the sum of Rs. 50,000 if not more and provide them with minimum Rs. 1 Crore term insurance without any riders. The least we can do for them is give them their due recognition, respect and reward for their service and efforts.

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The government of Uttar Pradesh announced a 25% additional increase in the salary or honorarium of all healthcare and frontline workers for their COVID duty days. This hike will be applicable for doctors and nurses even for days they isolate after a COVID duty.

Similarly, the Maharashtra government has also announced a hike in the honorarium of doctors serving their bonds and also to bring them at par with regular doctors.

Such decisions of underpaying the system, disrespecting our frontline workers and forcing them to work will actually break the system and demoralise our people instead of strengthening or serving in the healthcare system.

We hope you will consider our submission and take timely, appropriate actions. We remain at your disposal for any further details or clarification and support.

Best regards,



Dr. Himadri Bisht
Health Parliament

CC:

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Shri J.P. Nadda, Former Union Health Minister, Government of India

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister, Government of India

Prof. Rajendra Pratap Gupta, Founder & Chairman- Health Parliament

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