

# 'Doctor' couple with fake medical degrees in the dock

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HYDERABAD: District health authorities on Friday issued notice to a couple from Yousufguda for allegedly practicing medicine using fake degrees.

According to officials, Kalpana, though trained in homeopathy, claimed to be an MD and was found prescribing allopathic drugs. Also, her husband's

name, A Venkatramana, did not match with the one found on his MBBS degree while their clinic (known as 'Sai Clinic') was unregistered. The couple has been asked to submit documents by Monday failing which their clinic would be closed, district medical and health office Dr K Narendrudu said.

This is not a one-off incident, officials said pointing out how there has been a steady rise in the number of fraud cases in the recent past. "This is in fact the fifth or sixth such case booked this year," Dr Narendrudu added. Clinics apart, even 90% nursing homes along with some big corporate hospitals have been found employing alternative medicine specialists these days. This is primarily because they are paid half the remuneration of qualified MBBS doctors, experts said. "Smaller nursing homes cannot afford to pay huge salaries. It has practically become impossible to employ qualified doctors," said a senior member of the AP Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association.

Experts maintain that as per norms, doctors have to practice only the line of medicine in which they are qualified. Unfortunately, however, the trend of doctors illegally practicing other systems of medicine, mostly allopathy, has become quite rampant across the country, they said.

Dr E Ravinder Reddy, vice-chairman, AP Medical Council, a regulatory body that registers all doctors, recalled how a doctor was recently suspended by the council for using a fake DNB (Diplomate of National Board) degree in AP. "We get regular complaints. Without clearing the exam, many just produce a DNB degree or other diplomas and fellowships that are not recognized by the Medical Council of India, and cheat gullible patients," said Dr Reddy. Pointing fingers at the district health authorities, experts also said how officials are not proactive and only act on complaints. "They don't aggressively monitor such illegal practices, which needs to be done in the interest of the patients," said a senior doctor.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/Doctor-couple-with-fake-medical-degrees-in-the-dock/articleshow/22593606.cms>