



Migration of Doctors to the Middle East - The Crux of the Situation and its Avoidance

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In any country, doctors form the backbone of its healthcare system. A robust healthcare infrastructure necessitates not only content doctors but also satisfied nurses and para-medical staff. Despite India's rapid development, complete with modern amenities, competitive pay scales, and an improved lifestyle, there persists a significant trend of healthcare workers, especially doctors, migrating to the Middle East.

While India showered doctors with gratitude during the COVID-19 pandemic, celebrating them as "Heroes," a perplexing question arises: why the continued surge in migration, even with attractive wages and facilities? The crux of the matter, I believe, lies in the need for doctors to have unwavering belief and trust.

The advent of easy internet access has led patients to consult Google before consulting a doctor, limiting the autonomy of medical professionals in decision-making. Furthermore, the prevalence of quacks in suburban areas exacerbates the problem. These individuals work in cities, acquire superficial knowledge, return to their villages, and, with the aid of the internet, establish nursing homes. Primarily targeting illiterate individuals, these establishments often delay proper treatment until diseases progress, placing the responsibility on city doctors who are then burdened with guilt when patients succumb.

Despite India's dense population requiring a substantial number of healthcare professionals, the establishment of new medical colleges and increased MBBS and postgraduate seats may prove futile if doctors continue to migrate due to societal issues. What if citizens unintentionally drive their heroes away, succumbing to villains disguised as saviors? It is incumbent upon everyone to foster unshakable belief in their doctors and cease reliance on alter-

nate sources, ensuring a united front against these challenges.

This migration is not limited to clinical specialists, even pre-clinical faculty members are also migrating abroad. It can be attributed to several factors. One significant aspect is the increasing demand for learned professionals. The lucrative job opportunities, competitive salaries, and modern educational system offered in the Middle East can be appealing to anatomists seeking career growth. There's still a wide gap between the metro cities and second tier cities' medical colleges in India regarding the education system. Attending conferences, presentations, workshops, writing scientific papers must be encouraged early.

Additionally, the Middle East has witnessed rapid advancements in healthcare infrastructure, with a focus on establishing state-of-the-art medical facilities. This environment may attract anatomists looking for cutting-edge research opportunities and the chance to contribute to the development of medical practices in a dynamic setting.

Despite these advantages, it's essential to consider the potential challenges that anatomists might face, such as adapting to a new cultural and professional environment. Factors like societal issues and the need for unwavering belief in medical professionals, as mentioned previously, could also influence anatomists' decisions to migrate or stay in their home country.