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EVALUATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS' OPINION TOWARDS MEDICAL TOURISM EDUCATION IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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Background: Medical Tourism is an activity that highly beneficial for health improvements and economic development. It creates more jobs, more facilities and people will get access to the latest and greatest services. Medical Tourism is an open area where job opportunities are available in the field of health care as well as tourism sectors. Though medical tourism has a big market, the medical tourism facilitators are struggling for the business and the entire business process is not defined and structured. Worldwide studies revealed shortage of trained manpower in the medical tourism industry and the data in United Arab Emirates (UAE) is not available. In general, medical tourism stakeholders are not getting qualified staff for medical tourism operation and hence it is considered ideal to start medical tourism education. The Knowledge and skill-based specialized medical tourism course is essential to meet the industry's requirements.

Objectives: To assess the skills required for the medical tourism facilitator at different level from a stakeholder viewpoint, and to study the perceptions of medical tourism stakeholders towards the medical tourism education.

Conclusion: This research revealed that there is a shortage of trained manpower in the medical tourism industry and most of the stakeholders felt the need for a structured medical tourism program to develop more competent and qualified medical tourism facilitators.

Biography

Anil Bankar has completed PhD in Medical Tourism from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad (MS) India. At present working as Assistant professor, Gulf Medical University, UAE. He has varied work experience in research, teaching and training medical tourism subjects.

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