



MEDICAL TOURISM IN SOLAPUR

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ABSTRACT

The conventional occupations of textile spinning and beedi rolling are diminishing in the city, it is by virtue of industrialist and wise efforts of the citizens the youngsters got medical, paramedical and pharmacy education, several doctors from other states too joined Solapur.. Industrialists, political leaders, charity institutions and doctors opened hospitals, dispensaries, labs, blood bank in the city. Solapur has super-speciality, multi-speciality hospitals, dispensaries, clinic, pathological labs, radiology theatres, blood banks, trauma vans and medical stores working round the clock. Patients and their aides from neighbouring towns, cities and states are coming to Solapur for treatments. Medical tourism in Solapur is developing and expanding since last two decades. Medical tourism giving employment to doctors, paramedical staffs, lab tech, pharmacists, dieticians, inns, hotels, canteens, auto drivers, saloons, laundryman etc.



KEYWORDS: *medical tourism, pathology, aides, tutor, paramedical staff, after care services.*

INTRODUCTION:

Medical tourism refers to people travelling abroad to obtain medical treatment. In olden days people of less developed countries use to travel to the countries highly developed in medical science and services. Solapur is the city of Maharashtra with advance medical sciences and services, the medical sector in the city is developing since last two decades. Solapur city have more than hundred Hospitals and Super-speciality Hospitals. Team of expert doctors and paramedical staff, advance machinerie sand quick pharmaceutical services are available for the patients, Cardiac, neurological, orthopaedic, nephrology problems,, dental patients, skin problems, burns, accidents are being treated; besides that all the hospitals have stay and food services for the relatives accompanying the sick person. The patients touring to Solapur for the purpose are more from nearby towns, Cities and neighbouring States. The medical tourism is giving employment to doctors, paramedical staff, pharmacists etc. the business of medical store, canteens, hotels, auto drivers, fruit sellers, juice bars is blooming in the city.

OBJECTIVES:

Medical tourism is at its boom in the city of Solapur, the objective of the researcher is to know the causes for the growth of medical sector in Solapur. To ascertain the pushing and pulling factor towards the medical hub of Solapur. To see if the stake holders are satisfied with treatment charges and medical services. To study the auxiliary employment and occupation based on medical tourism.

METHODOLOGY:

The medical sector in Solapur is growing and expanding in all parts of the city, the sector includes hospitals, multi-speciality hospitals, physiotherapy centres, medical store, pathological labs, radiology lab, Ortho hospitals, maternity homes etc. The researcher, approached the many of the important Hospital to take an account of number of IPD and OPD patients, he attempted to know what made them to tour Solapur, he took the note of number of cases reported in Pathological labs and Radiology centres, hospitals, multi-speciality hospitals the Medicine shoppers were reluctant to give the information on the sale of medicine. Besides medical services the investigator talked to the Trauma Van and Ambulance drivers, Hoteliers, Auto drivers and small inns in the city. As there is continuous mobility and fluctuation in the medical tourists hence it was difficult to decide the universe and select the samples of respondent. The researcher himself was the patient's aide for two years in different hospitals, he observe the phenomena, had interaction with medical tourist, hospital personnel and auxiliary services. The data acquired is based on observation interaction and active participation with the respondents.

OBSERVATIONS:

Solapur is the city of Maharashtra situated at the border of Andhra, Karnataka and Maharashtra. It is on the way of Rail service connecting North and South India, National High way No. 09, 13 and passes through the Solapur, the city is easily accessible to the needy of the surrounding Villages, Towns, Cities and States too.

Solapur had three composite textile mills and four spinning mills situating on on huge pieces of land employing more fifteen thousand workers, besides the city had hundreds of unorganized power-looms sheds, dying industries, spinning units, twenty Beedi-rolling industries employing near about one lakh people. By the recession in the market the Mills and sheds were running sick, the workers were wise to search and alternate job and profession, at the final closure of the units the unemployed workers were compensated with Provident Funds and gratuity, some were allotted plots in open land of the mills. In addition to this new mechanical shops, automobile service centres, electronic and telecommunication appliances show rooms and service centres. electronic show rooms, garment shops cloth emporiums, new schools, colleges, government offices, cash crops, food processing industry, dairy farm gave employment to many. Cash in hand with alternative job and open plot gave them courage to school their children in medical and engineering,

The unplanned efforts and striving of the Solapur kar made the city more fertile land for the development of medical sector. The city has two government medical (Alopathy) colleges, two Ayurveda, two Home opathy and one Electro pathy college, many Paramedical courses are attached to all the above medical colleges, four blood banks etc. The municipal corporation of Solapur on its part is active for electrification in the city. The roads and water supply is satisfactory; besides this hundreds of the student from Solapur are taking medical and Paramedical education in other cities of Maharashtra and Karnataka. The city has one Pharmacy college plus two pharmaceutical diploma and degree colleges in towns of the city, many youths are acquire in gtheir pharmacy degrees from near-by states. All the medical graduate and Post Graduate in different disciplines of medical science are working in Solapur. The city have its citizens and few outsiders as Cardiologist, Gynaecologists, Orthopaedists, Gastroenterologists, Paediatrics, Anaesthetists, Radiologists, Pathologists, Physiotherapists, Nephrologists, Dentists, Nephrologists. The city has Now Solapur has Neuron surgeons, Neuro-physicians, Cardiac surgeons sts, Skin specialists, Dermatologists, Diabetics, Dieticians, Operation theatre assistants, Nurses, midwives, lab technicians etc. The personnel have sufficient space and support to open hospitals and practice.

The neighbouring towns and cities are draught prone having no rail services, road transport is crippled; unhygienic conditions, medical illiteracy not having medical specialists and super- specialist doctors, insufficient trained paramedical staff are the pushing factors. The pulling factors towards Solapur are its connectivity to all surrounding villages, towns, and adjacent states with railways and road ways. The City has hundreds of Hospitals and Super-speciality Hospitals like Ashwinin Co-operative super-speciality

Hospital, Yashodhara Super speciality Hospital, Wadia Charitable Hospital, Markanday Hospital, Gangamai Neuroscience hospital, Walsangkar Neuroscienc Hospital and Research centre, Katikar Neuro Hospital, Chandan Neuroscience and Research centre, Kumthekar cancer hospital, Sidheshwar Cancer hospital, Reliance Cancer care centre, City Hospital, Baldawa Neurological centre, Dr. Mudkanna's Neuro care centre, Khairna Ortho Hosp. Kothadia Ortho Hosp, Dhandore Hosp, Dantakale Orthopedic Ram krishna Eye clinic, Albal Eye clinic, awasthi Eye clinic, Pradhan Eye clinic, Devinin Eye clinic, Raichur eye clinic, Lasliwal Paediatric Hosp, Yajurvedi Paediatric Hosp, Katkar Paediatric Hosp, Chaitnaya Paediatric HospPragati, Span Paediatric Hosp, Prism Paediatric Hosp, Walvekar Paediatric Hosp, Binit Paediatric Hosp, Katkar Paediatric Hosp. Mahila Hosp, Baldawa Hosp, Utkarsh Hosp, Shahu Hosp, Joshi Hosp, Chidgupkar Hosp, Shrangarpure Hosp, Shriram Heart clinic, Dabade Heart clinic, Parle Heart clinic, Life line heart clinic, Raghaji Kidney care hosp, Bhandari Kidney hosp, Andhalgaonkar Kidney care, Holkar kidney care, Bagewadi Hosp, Nannajkar Hosp, Apex Hosp, Al-faiz charitable Hosp, Saifi clinic, Kawra Hosp, Mendgudli Hosp, Patankar Hosp, Mangoli Hosp, Monarch Hosp, the city has hundreds of Dental Hospitals and Eye clinic, there are more than fifty Pathological labs, small dispensaries are above two hundreds. Every hospital has Radiology theatre and Pathology labs all are run by the above professional doctors and paramedical staff. All hospitals, clinics, dispensaries are flanked two or three medical stores working for twenty four hours there are more than eight hundred medical stores in the city. Auto rickshaws, vans and private vehicles are escorting the patients to the Hospital they desire to go. There are dhabas, mess and hotels near multi-speciality hospitals engaged in supplying meals to the patients, its relatives, paramedical staff and houseman doctors too.

The patients and their aides are giving composite responses, all of them say that, the multi-speciality and super-speciality hospitals have every-thing with them like trauma van, pathology lab, radio theatre, MRI, medical store etc besides this hospitals are arranging drinking water, dining halls, rest rooms, PCO, television, internet service etc. W/C and bathrooms for the patient's relatives. It is reported that, OPD in all hospitals is opened for twenty-four hours, Every Hospital have receptionists communicating the patients and relatives in their mother tongues like Kannada, Telugu, Marathi, Hindi and Urdu language. The houseman doctors and paramedical staff available round the clock. Expert doctors sits in OPD in specific time displayed for the incoming patients. The IPD work too is satisfactory, Expert and specialist doctor visits twice in a day to the general ward, ICU and special room, they consult the aides and relatives of the patients to inform amount the status of the patient and amount to be spend. Every patient and relatives are found complaining about the heavy charges of ICU, AC rooms, operation theatre and other pathological test. The hospital provides security to the belongings of the patients. All hospitals have Rajive Gandhi Jevandaye Yojna and Mhatma Phule Jevandaye Yojna to give free treatment to the patients coming from below poverty line, there are many charitable trust giving helping hand to the needy patients. Hospitals are crowded with the patients coming from towns, villages nearby cites and neighbouring states. The small Dispensaries of single doctor and clinics like Dental clinic, Eye hospitals, ENT hospitals, are operating in the working hours they too have local and outsider patients. All pathological labs are working for Eighteen hours to issue the reports, Medical stores are working for eighteen or more hours some medical stores are opened for twenty-four hours.

Medical tourism in Solapur is giving employment to the people out-side the hospital premises. The private vehicles, auto-rickshaws are escorting the stake holders to the hospitals, inns, medical stores pathological labs, radiology theatre, service for medical aide giving employment, the inns, hotels and canteen are serving break-fast and meals to the patients and aids as per their requirements, several canteens are opened for twenty four hours serving with tea and coffee. Medical stores employing several attendants are always prompt and open for all the time, news-papers and television channels in the city are educating the people about the services in the hospitals. PCO, pan shops, general stores, laundry, saloon nearby hospitals are earning. Patients and relatives are religious, some of them visits temples, and holy places of their religious faiths.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Textile and spinning Mills, power-looms, dying industry and Beedi rolling sector in Solapur crippled and closed down three decades back.
2. Workers in the above occupation got compensation in cash and land.
3. New sectors like automobile, electronics workshops, mechanical workshops, telecommunication sector, educational institutions developed in Solapur.
4. Many youngsters in Solapur got medical education, paramedical education, and pharmaceutical education in Solapur and other cities of the state.
5. The young medicos of Solapur and other migrant medicos, industrialists, charitable trusts, social workers and politicians started multi-speciality hospital hospitals, clinics, labs, shops.
6. The neighbouring towns, cities and states have less hospitals, unhygienic condition, illiteracy, no means of transportation etc made patients and their aides to tour Solapur for treatment.
7. All hospitals, super-speciality hospitals have expert experienced doctors, active paramedical staff, advance labs testing machines and latest medicines.
8. Patients below poverty lines are also treated under government schemes.
9. Hospitals are providing all amenities to the patient and their aides.
10. Several dispensaries, clinics, pathology labs, dental clinic, eye clinic, physiotherapy centres are prompt in their services.
11. Medical tourism giving employment and work to hoteliers, canteens, mess, inn, saloons, laundries auto drivers, medical stores, tea stalls, general stores etc.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Patients and aides coming from long distance should make an inquiry of degree of doctor, track report of hospitals, and expenditure expected.
2. The hospitals should install ATM machines in their premises to ease the stake holders to payment and other needs.
3. Hospitals should not do unnecessary delay in stay of the patients in ICU and rooms.
4. Unnecessary and extra test in Pathology lab should avoided.
5. Hospitals should start after care services.
6. All big hospitals should have Medical Social Worker and Counsellor to guide and sooth the patients and aides.
7. The paramedical staff like Aaya, nurses, lab. technicians, works eight hours hence there are chances of irritation, their hours of works should be not more than six hours.
8. Care should be taken to respect the feelings, protect the money and belongings of the stake holders.
9. The civic authorities should keep vigilance for no stake holders should be fooled and outside the hospital premises.
10. The assistant doctor and paramedical staff should be in touch with discharged patients to know the development in the health condition of the patients and suggest them on the ailment.

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