



Medical tourism in India – How crowd-sourced platforms can help in informed-decision making?

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Abstract:

The crowd sourced platforms of crowd-reviewing or crowd-voting that utilizes the participation of crowd (common people) to identify best among available option enabled rapid information exchange among users regardless of the location. Big organizations, celebrities, government officials and government bodies or policy-makers widely use the crowdsourced platform and collect mass reviews of their product, postings or policies. At the same time end user utilizes the same platform before decision making. Google+, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Amazon and GitHub not only enable the ease of information exchange among its users regardless of the spatial and temporal constraints but also permitting the effective collection of big data to empower existing state of knowledge. Acknowledging the significance of crowd-sourced platform, this study explores the Google+ and Facebook to map the distinct avenues of medical tourism in India. Medical tourism consists of space interactions for healthcare, which include movement of patients with their companions across borders, people's exposure to new spatial contexts of life and culture of care and the global flow of capital and policy across space. India has seen a 166% increase in medical tourism since 2014. The number of people entering India on medical visas.

Biography:

Dr. Anu Rai is an Assistant Professor of Geography in School of Basic and Applied Sciences (sobas) of Adamas University located in the Kolkata, capital city of Indian state West Bengal. She is an alumni of Presidency University, Kolkata (earlier Presidency College) and holds Ph.D. in Geography. With a keen interest in exploring multiple dimensions of spatial events, she has published many research papers, and book chapter(s) of international repute. She has also authored a book on Medical Tourism in Kolkata, Eastern India (2019) published by Springer International Publishing. Focussing on Geography of Decision Making and Management, Dr. Rai



has delivered invited and contributed talks at various seminar and symposiums organized by International Asian Urbanization Union, International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, International Benevolent Research Forum, Indian Geography Congress, International Institute of Population Studies, Regional Science's Association, India, Foundation of Practising Geographers, Indian Society of Spatial Scientists, West Bengal to name a few. Mapping infrastructure accessibility and availability for vulnerable communities; modelling spatial interactions and resultant space reconstruction and developing more viable, transparent and real option strategies are core domain of investigations for Dr. Rai. Recently she is much interested in exploring big data generated from crowd-sourced platform in evaluating the distinct avenues of medical tourism as a significant component of informed decision-making in the era of WebRevolution.

Publication of speakers:

1. Rai, Anu & Shah, Deep Narayan & Tachamo Shah, Ram Devi & Milner, Carol. (2019). Influence of environmental parameters on benthic macroinvertebrate assemblages in the headwaters of Bagmati river, Kathmandu valley, Nepal. Banko Janakari. 29. 53-61. 10.3126/banko.v29i1.25155.
2. Rai, Anu & Tachamo Shah, Ram Devi & Milner, Carol & Shah, Deep Narayan. (2020). Seasonal Variation of Functional Feeding Groups and Notation of Its Corresponding Stream Ecosystem Attributes in the Headwaters of Bagmati River, Nepal.

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