International Medical Schools & Physician Migration Patterns

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Overview

• Increase in medical schools worldwide
• Increasing migration for education
• Migration for undergraduate medical education - view from USA
The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) promotes quality health care for the public by certifying international medical graduates (IMGs) for entry into US graduate medical education, and by participating in the evaluation and certification of other physicians and health care professionals nationally and internationally. In conjunction with its Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER®), and other partners, it actively seeks opportunities to promote medical education through programmatic and research activities.
- ECFMG’s foundation
- Established in 2000
  - Education
    - Fellowship and distance learning programs in health professions education
  - Research
    - Characteristics and quality of international medical education programs
    - IMGs and US physician workforce
    - Validation of ECFMG certification and US licensure
    - Physician migration
  - Data Resources
Data Resources

• *World Directory of Medical Schools*, published by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) and FAIMER (www.wdoms.org)

• Directory of Organizations that Recognize/Accredit Medical Schools (DORA)

• Postgraduate Medical Education (PME) Project

• Directories of Master’s and PhD Programs in Health Professions Education
Data Sources

• *World Directory of Medical Schools*
  – Program and school information
    • Curriculum, duration

• ECFMG applicant information
  – Country of citizenship at start of medical school
  – Country of medical school
Distribution of Medical Schools

Undergraduate Migration by Degree Year

![Bar chart showing undergraduate migration by degree year from 1980-1984 to 2015-2019. The chart compares the number of students who did not migrate and those who migrated.](image)

- **Did not migrate**
- **Migrated**
ECFMG Applicants
Countries of Medical School
Top 20 Countries of Medical School: Applicants Who Migrated
Top 20 Countries of Medical School: Applicants Who Did Not Migrate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INDIA</td>
<td>80K</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAKISTAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINES</td>
<td>30K</td>
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<td>SOUTH KOREA</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRAZIL</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions

• Migration for undergraduate medical school has varied over time, at least for ECFMG applicants

• *World Directory* collects information on international programs including start date
Challenges

• Information captured for those applying to ECFMG for services
• Incentives needed to collect similar information from other countries
• Infrastructure for data collection?
Thank you for your time and attention

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