

Medscape: Emerging Notion of Medical Tourism Landscape in Geographical Studies

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ABSTRACT

The global rise in the medical tourism business has reshaped and redistributed the resources at the micro-level and created its landscape. Here, medical technology is advanced, affordable, and available to all. Popularly known as "medscapes", these medical tourism landscapes are evolving to serve the dire needs of patients. Perhaps, The role and contribution of medical tourism to reshaping the natural and socio-economic landscapes at the neighborhood scale is yet to gain proper attention in academia. This letter aims to invite scholarly attention to this emerging notion of the medical tourism landscape in geographical studies by revisiting some of the existing literature.

I. Introduction

The notion of traveling away from your home for health and well-being is a well-established concept in academia. The spas of Hungary, baths of Turkey, and geysers of Sweden have been long been popular destinations for those seeking convalescence. However, medical value travel, or 'medical tourism' as a term has come to represent situations where consumers elect to travel across international borders to receive some form of biomedical services [1]. Differences between medical and health tourism focus on the type of intervention, setting and particular inputs involved [2]. It simply refers to people traveling to a place other than their own to obtain medical care [3]. This medically motivated travel is driven by the inaccessibility and unavailability of the medical needs required at home [1]. As a tool of wealth creation [4] and a viable solution to address the healthcare needs

of global patients, today medical tourism is valued as a multi-billion-dollar industry on a global scale. In response to growing medically motivated travel, many therapeutic spaces of the 21st century have been emerging at a much faster rate than before [5]. The global rise in the medical tourism business has reshaped and redistributed the resources at the micro-level and created its landscape. Here, medical technology is advanced, affordable, and available to all [6]. Popularly known as "medscapes", these medical tourism landscapes are evolving to serve the dire needs of patients [1]. The aim is to serve medical visitors, earn foreign revenue, and generate new avenues of earning in addition to those normally developed by travel for leisure. This space is entitled to offer an exclusive medical tourism landscape and extends services in form of a medical tourism package including excellent medical and healthcare products combined with conventional tourism activities. Developing countries of the global south have witnessed the emergence of such medical tourism landscape, attributed to the influx of medical tourists across the borders of continents, nations, and federal states. Asian medical tourism landscapes of India, Thailand, and Singapore are well

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