

# "Enhancing Interprofessional Collaboration and Learning for Strengthening Primary Health Care"

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## TUFH 2021 ABSTRACTS

Title	WORK PREFERENCES OF MEDICAL STUDENTS IN PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SETUP: AN URBAN-RURAL HEALTH PARADIGM
Type	<b>Oral Presentation</b> <i>What can we learn from your Primary Health Care Practice and Experiences?</i>
1st Author	<b>ESHWAR RAJESH</b>
Co-Authors	<b>Emma Manuel</b>
Country	<b>INDIA</b>
Abstract N <sup>o</sup>	<b>TUFH565</b>
Content	<p>Background: Health is one of the most critical dimensions established in the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015. However, India as a developing country is still struggling with the urban-rural divide. Almost 60% of health workers reside in urban areas even though 74% of the country's population is rural. According to the census by Government of India in 2017, the Infant Mortality Rate(IMR) in rural India is 37% and urban India is 23%. Such evidences are a testimony to the apparent disparity between the rural and urban health sectors. The aim of this study is to investigate the factors contributing to the medical students' preference for the urban health sector. Methodology: Cross-sectional design using a structured questionnaire to state their preferred choice over hypothetical job alternatives and reasons justifying it. Study population includes medical students in their final year of undergraduate degree. Result: 74.2% of the students preferred working in urban health sector when given a choice. Their decision was multifactorial including criteria such as professional opportunities, social lifestyle and salary. Conclusion: Rural-urban health disparities in India are largely prevailing in spite of massive government efforts towards improvement of health sector such as the National Health Policy 2017. It is alarming that the budding doctors of the country prefer working in the urban sector over the rural sector. Therefore, strategies must be developed by policy makers to address both the personal and professional needs of doctors to be recruited in the rural areas.</p>