Editorial

Foreign Placement for Postgraduate Trainee Doctors

As part of the postgraduate training for doctors, foreign training for a specified period of time is mandatory before being board certified. Some doctors find it extremely difficult to find a foreign placement for this purpose. This may delay them from obtaining board certification, adversely affecting their personal development as well as the productivity of the Sri Lankan health sector.

Recently, a centre named Foreign Placement Coordinating Centre (FPCC) was established under the Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition which will help in overcoming this problem. The vision of the FPCC is to promote Sri Lankan healthcare system up to the international standards by creating opportunities for postgraduate trainees to train at best centres in the world and through the experience medical officers gain during their foreign placements. The centre will facilitate postgraduate trainees in completing their overseas component of the training in a much coordinated manner. The other objectives of the centre include arranging foreign placements for specialists and other medical officers for limited time periods which will help them in generating foreign currency. It will also facilitate doctors in achieving relevant qualifications, which will make them attractive for overseas placements.

 Establishment of a centre like FPCC fulfills a long felt need of our country. If the FPCC is able to achieve its objectives it will no doubt go a long way in improving the quality and quality of life of doctors in Sri Lanka.

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