

“CROSS-BORDER EDUCATION CRISIS: UNDERSTANDING THE FINANCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND CAREER IMPACT ON INDIAN MBBS STUDENTS AFFECTED BY THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR”

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ABSTRACT:

This study undertakes a comprehensive examination of the far-reaching consequences of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on Indian students pursuing medical degrees in Ukraine. Employing a mixed-methods approach, this research delves into the financial, emotional, and vocational repercussions of this crisis on the affected students. The findings of this study underscore the imperative need for concerted efforts by governmental agencies, academic institutions, and international organizations to alleviate the adverse effects of this conflict and safeguard the academic prospects of these students. By shedding light on the human cost of geopolitical tensions on international students, this research aims to inform evidence-based policy interventions tailored to support affected students.

Key Word: Higher Education, MBBS, Russia-Ukraine, Cross border Education

INTRODUCTION:

Education is a transformative force that empowers individuals to acquire skills, knowledge, and values essential for leading a fulfilling life. In India, the pursuit of medical education is a coveted ambition, with numerous institutions offering undergraduate programs in medicine and surgery. The MBBS degree, established by the Indian Medical Council Act of 1956, is a prestigious undergraduate program that has

undergone significant transformations, including the National Medical Commission's amendments in 2019. The Indian medical education landscape is characterized by intense competition, with over 300 medical universities and colleges offering approximately 72,098 MBBS seats. The syllabus followed in Indian medical colleges is of global standards, enabling students to practice medicine worldwide. However, the allure of international medical education has led many Indian students to explore MBBS programs abroad, with countries like Georgia, Bulgaria, and Italy offering top-class programs at affordable costs. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has precipitated a crisis for Indian medical students pursuing their MBBS degrees in Ukraine. With academic pursuits disrupted, emotional well-being compromised, and financial stability threatened, these students face an uncertain future. This study seeks to investigate the financial, emotional, and career implications of this crisis on Indian MBBS students affected by the conflict, with the aim of informing policy decisions, support mechanisms, and future research directions.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict has sparked a cross-border education crisis, profoundly affecting Indian MBBS students. This disruption has taken a toll on their emotional well-being, exacerbating concerns about their family's future and forcing them to make critical decisions amidst uncertainty. Indian MBBS students face significant challenges, including uncertainty about migrating to alternative institutions, career prospects, and the future of their education. Additionally, they encounter social, economic, and logistical difficulties, including increased travel and accommodation expenses. This complex situation threatens the educational pursuits and future aspirations of Indian MBBS students affected by the conflict. A comprehensive study is necessary to understand the financial, emotional, and career implications of this crisis on Indian students. Furthermore, it is essential to examine the measures taken by the Indian government and the assistance provided by the Indian embassy during the relocation process to support affected students.

OBJECTIVES:

- To assess the economic burden on the students and their families due to the crisis
- To analyze their emotional factors like stress, anxiety and trauma faced by the students due to deportation and uncertainty about their future
- To identify the challenges faced by Indian MBBS students in completing their education and securing employment opportunities due to the war
- To evaluate career implications of the crisis on Indian MBBS students

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Research methodology is the scientific and systematic process employed to carry out research studies. It includes the principles, procedures, and techniques utilized to gather, analyse, and interpret data to solve research problems or test hypotheses. This study employed a range of statistical analysis techniques to examine the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on Indian MBBS students. The following methods were used:

- 1) Simple Percentage
- 2) T-Test
- 3) Chi-Square
- 4) ANOVA
- 5) SEM (Structural Equation Modelling)

RESULTS AND FINDINGS:

AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
BELOW 18	2	4.1
ABOVE 18	47	95.9
TOTAL	49	100.0
GENDER	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
MALE	24	49.0
FEMALE	25	51.0
TOTAL	49	100.0
MONTHLY INCOME	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
BELOW RS.20,000	10	20.4
RS.20,000-RS.40,000	13	26.5
RS.40,000-RS.80,000	13	26.5
ABOVE 80,000	13	26.5
TOTAL	49	100.0
AREA OF RESIDENCE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
RURAL	20	40.8

URBAN	22	44.9
SEMI-URBAN	7	14.3
TOTAL	49	100.0
FAMILY TYPE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
NUCLEAR FAMILY	28	57.1
JOINT FAMILY	21	42.9
TOTAL	49	100.0
FAMILY MEMBERS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
2	-	-
3	6	12.2
4	28	57.1
5 AND ABOVE	15	30.6
TOTAL	49	100.0

INTERPRETATION:

AGE: Most of the respondents (95.9%) are above 18 years old, indicating a predominantly adult sample.

GENDER: The sample has a nearly equal gender distribution, with a slight inclination towards females (51%).

MONTHLY INCOME: The respondents' monthly income is relatively evenly distributed, with approximately 26.5% in each of the three middle-income categories.

AREA OF RESIDENCE: The sample is predominantly composed of rural (40.8%) and urban (44.9%) residents.

FAMILY TYPE: Most respondents (57.1%) belong to nuclear families.

FAMILY MEMBERS: Most of the respondents (57.1%) have 4 family members.

ANALYSIS:

- 1) To assess the economic burden on the students and their families due to the crisis

WHAT WAS YOUR AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE FOR LIVING IN RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Independent Samples Test											
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means							
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		
										Lower	Upper
WHAT WAS YOUR AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE ON LIVING EXPENSES IN RUSSIA/UKRAINE?	Equal variances assumed	5.252	.026	-.146	47	.884	-.04000	.27322	-.58964	.50964	
	Equal variances not assumed			-.145	41.548	.885	-.04000	.27506	-.59527	.51527	

SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

Group Statistics					
	GENDER	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
WHAT WAS YOUR AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE ON LIVING EXPENSES IN RUSSIA/UKRAINE?	MALE	24	2.0000	1.10335	.22522
	FEMALE	25	2.0400	.78951	.15790

INTERPRETATION:

The results suggest that there is no significant relationship between gender and average monthly expenditure on living expenses in Russia/Ukraine. This means that males and females have similar average monthly expenditures.

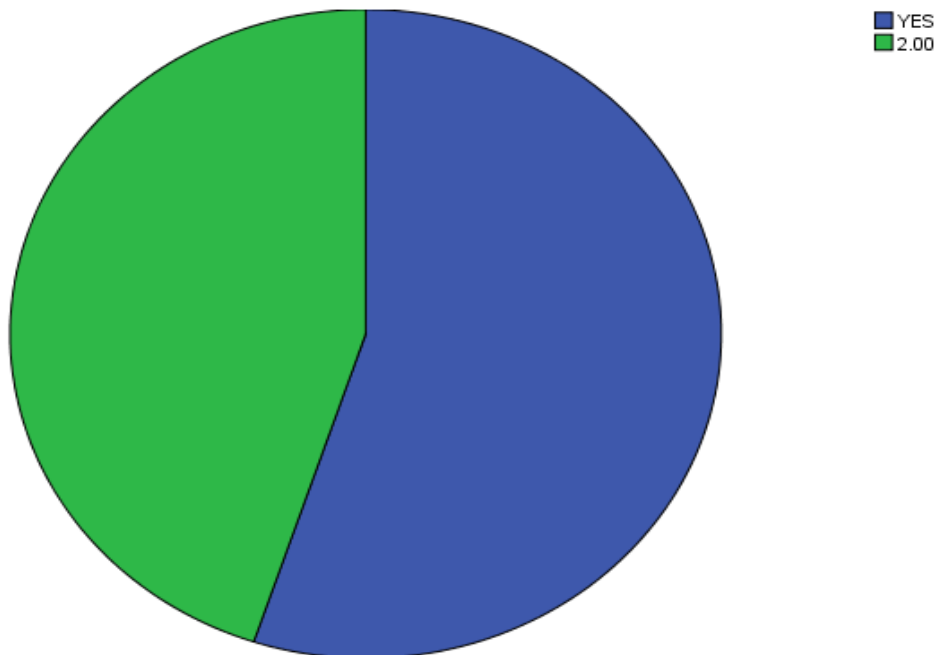
- 2) To analyze their emotional factors like stress, anxiety and trauma faced by the students due to deportation and uncertainty about their future

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY TRAUMATIC EVENTS DURING THE CRISIS?(FOR EG, WITNESSING ANY VIOLENCE, BEING SEPERATED FROM FAMILY)

SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

	Traumatic events	Frequency	Percent
	YES	27	55.1
	NO	22	44.9
	Total	49	100.0

**HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY TRAUMATIC EVENTS DURING THE CRISIS?
(FOR EG, WITNESSING ANY VIOLENCE, BEING SEPERATED FROM FAMILY)**



INTERPRETATION:

A significant proportion of respondents (55.1%) reported experiencing traumatic events during the crisis, highlighting the severe impact on their lives. More than half of those surveyed have been affected, indicating a substantial psychological toll. The crisis has taken a significant emotional toll, with traumatic events becoming a reality for over half of the respondents. This percentage underscores the severity of the crisis, and the emotional scars will likely linger. The impact is profound, affecting a substantial majority of those surveyed. The crisis has left deep emotional wounds. The trauma experienced will have long-lasting effects.

- 3) To identify the challenges faced by Indian MBBS students in completing their education and securing employment opportunities due to the war

HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU ABOUT SECURING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA AFTER COMPLETING YOUR MBBS EDUCATION

Multiple Comparisons						
Tukey HSD						
(I) MONTHLY INCOME	(J) MONTHLY INCOME	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
BELOW RS.20,000	RS.20,001- RS.40,000	.10769	.30061	.984	-.6942	.9096
	RS.40,001- RS.80,000	-.35385	.30061	.644	-1.1558	.4481
	ABOVE RS.80,000	-.27692	.30061	.794	-1.0789	.5250
RS.20,001- RS.40,000	BELOW RS.20,000	-.10769	.30061	.984	-.9096	.6942
	RS.40,001- RS.80,000	-.46154	.28032	.364	-1.2094	.2863
	ABOVE RS.80,000	-.38462	.28032	.523	-1.1324	.3632
RS.40,001- RS.80,000	BELOW RS.20,000	.35385	.30061	.644	-.4481	1.1558
	RS.20,001- RS.40,000	.46154	.28032	.364	-.2863	1.2094
	ABOVE RS.80,000	.07692	.28032	.993	-.6709	.8247
ABOVE RS.80,000	BELOW RS.20,000	.27692	.30061	.794	-.5250	1.0789
	RS.20,001- RS.40,000	.38462	.28032	.523	-.3632	1.1324
	RS.40,001- RS.80,000	-.07692	.28032	.993	-.8247	.6709

SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

HYPOTHESIS:

H0: There is no significant relationship between monthly income and securing employment opportunities in India

H1: There is a significant relationship between monthly income and securing employment opportunities in India

ANOVA					
SECURING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1.832	3	.611	1.195	.322
Within Groups	22.985	45	.511		
Total	24.816	48			

INTERPRETATION:

The results suggest that there is no significant relationship between monthly income and confidence about securing employment opportunities in India after completing MBBS education. This means that individuals from different monthly income groups have similar levels of confidence about securing employment opportunities.

HYPOTHESIS TESTING:

Based on the results, we fail to reject the null hypothesis (H0) that there is no significant relationship between monthly income and confidence about securing employment opportunities in India after completing MBBS education

- 4) To evaluate career implications of the crisis on Indian MBBS students

HOW THIS HAS AFFECTED YOUR PLANS FOR POST-GRADUATE?

Case Processing Summary						
	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
AREA OF RESIDENCE * HOW THIS HAS AFFECTED YOUR PLANS FOR POST-GRADUATE?	49	100.0%	0	.0%	49	100.0%

AREA OF RESIDENCE AND PLANS FOR POST-GRADUATE?

Crosstabulation

Count						
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		HOW THIS HAS AFFECTED YOUR PLANS FOR POST-GRADUATE?				Total
		POSTPONED PLANS INDEFINITELY	CHANGED SPECIALIZATION OR FIELD OF INTEREST	CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS	OTHER	
AREA OF RESIDENCE	RURAL	6	9	5	0	20
	URBAN	3	12	6	1	22
	SEMI-URBAN	3	3	1	0	7
Total		12	24	12	1	49

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	4.124 ^a	6	.660
Likelihood Ratio	4.558	6	.602
Linear-by-Linear Association	.016	1	.899
N of Valid Cases	49		

a. 8 cells (66.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .14.

SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

Note: S: Significant (p value ≤ 0.05); NS: Not Significant (p value > 0.05)

HYPOTHESIS:

H0: There is no significant relationship between area of residence and plans for post-graduation

H1: There is a significant relationship between area of residence and plans for post-graduation

INTERPRETATION:

A Chi-square test was conducted to examine the relationship between the area of residence and the impact on plans for post-graduation. The results yielded a p-value of 0.660, indicating no statistically significant relationship between the area of residence and the impact on post-graduation plans. Consequently, the null hypothesis (H0) cannot be rejected, and the alternative hypothesis (H1) is rejected. This suggests that the

area of residence (rural or urban) does not have a significant influence on how the crisis has affected plans for post-graduation.

RESULT AND FINDINGS:

- The results indicate no significant difference in average monthly expenditure on living expenses in Russia/Ukraine between males and females. The mean expenditure for males was Rs.2,000, while for females it was Rs.2,040.
- A significant proportion of respondents (55.1%) reported experiencing traumatic events during the crisis. This highlights the severe emotional impact of the crisis on Indian MBBS students.
- The results suggest no significant relationship between monthly income and confidence about securing employment opportunities in India after completing MBBS education. Individuals from different monthly income groups have similar levels of confidence.
- The crisis has significantly impacted the plans for post-graduation among Indian MBBS students. Approximately 24.5% of the respondents have postponed their plans indefinitely, while 49% have changed their specialization or field of interest. Additionally, 24.5% are considering alternative programs, and 2% have reported other effects. However, the area of residence (rural, urban, or semi-urban) does not have a significant influence on how the crisis affects plans for post-graduation, as indicated by the non-significant relationship ($p\text{-value} = 0.660$) between the two variables.

CONCLUSION:

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has had a profound impact on Indian MBBS students, affecting their economic stability, emotional well-being, and career prospects. The findings of this study highlight the significant economic burden, emotional trauma, and challenges in completing education and securing employment opportunities faced by these students. While there is no significant relationship between monthly income and confidence about securing employment opportunities, or between area of residence and plans for post-graduation, the crisis has undoubtedly disrupted the lives and plans of these students. This study emphasizes the need for immediate support and interventions to mitigate the effects of the crisis on Indian

MBBS students. Future research can explore the long-term implications of this crisis on the career trajectories and well-being of these students.

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