

CAREER PREFERENCES OF DOCTORS QUALIFYING IN 1977: A POSTAL SURVEY

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Postal surveys on career preferences had good responses among British medical graduates (Parkhouse 1976). A similar survey was carried out among interne medical officers in Sri Lanka. A questionnaire was sent to 181 internes. The questionnaire dealt with career preferences. A self-addressed stamped envelope was sent. A response rate of 58.7% was obtained. It was considered a good response rate for Sri Lanka.

The most popular first choices of career were General Medicine and Surgery for males and General Medicine and Paediatrics for females. A popular second choice, Anaesthesia emerged among the females. The most frequently mentioned reason for preferring medical specialities against surgical was the relative independence from other sources (e.g. Anaesthetists) and the associated leisure time. Many females choosing medical specialities said 'it is more suitable for a female'. The interest shown in General practice in British samples (Parkhouse 1976) is not seen among our sample of doctors.

Over 70% said they intend sitting for post graduate examinations. This is seen even among first year medical students (Perera *et al.* 1979). Over 80% indicated that they wished to practice permanently in Sri Lanka except for temporary visits overseas.

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References:

Parkhouse, J. and Palmer, M. K. (1976). *British Medical Journal* 2, 630.

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