

**Appendix 1.** Questionnaire used in the study (PMCS Questionnaire version 4.0).

**Perception of Medical students on Career Specialty (PMCS) Questionnaire**

**Instructions**

The following questionnaire is designed to assess the attitude and perception of medical students on the choice of career specialty. Some general instructions for answering this questionnaire are:

1. There are a total of 12 items in this questionnaire. Please ensure that you answer ALL the items.
2. Answer the questions to the best of your understanding. AVOID discussion or clarifications about the questions and/or its options with your friends around.
3. Some questions have specific instructions on answering them; please READ them carefully. If you wish to change your answer for some reason, strike out the previous answer completely.
4. FOLLOW these instructions to create your participant unique ID which would have seven characters. Do not use any identifiers (name, number or batch) other than this ID anywhere in this questionnaire.

The *first* character should indicate your *gender*. The *second and third* characters should indicate the date you were born. The *fourth and fifth* characters should indicate the year of birth. The *sixth and seventh* characters should indicate the *first alphabet of your parents' names* (father's name first).

*For example, if you are a female born on 4th Feb 1995 and your parents' names are Rajkumar and Nisha, your participant unique ID will be F049SRN.*

**Fill participant unique ID in the box below:**

Gender	Date of birth	Year of birth	First alphabet of father's name	First alphabet of mother's name

**1. Indicate the year of joining Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS):** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Indicate the place you were brought up during most of your childhood:**  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Village \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Indicate your board of education in higher secondary school (standard XII).**

- a) State \_\_\_\_\_      b) CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education)  
 c) ISC (Indian School Certificate)      d) Others

**4. Do you have a family member who is a doctor or working in a profession related to the medical field?**

- a) Yes      b) No  
 If Yes, indicate the relationship and nature of his/her work:

**5. Are you planning to do a postgraduate degree after MBBS?**

- a) Yes      b) No      c) Not sure  
 i) If your response was Yes, where would you like to do your postgraduate degree after MBBS?  
 a) India      b) Abroad      c) Not sure  
 ii) If your response was No, state your reason:





**9. On a scale of 1 to 5 (where, 1=not important and 5=very important), how would you rate the importance you would assign to each of the following factors for choosing a specialty?**

Indicate your rating against each of the options even if you are not sure.

Factor	Rating	Factor	Rating
Financial prospects		Family responsibilities	
Perceived status of the field in society		Preference to work in rural areas	
Opportunities for higher studies or further specialization		Opportunity to be involved in patient care	
Professionally challenging field		Opportunity to teach	
Less stressful working conditions		Less duration of work hours	
Flexible working hours		Influence by role models	
Opportunity to settle down in urban areas		Sufficient time for hobbies and personal interests	
Influence from past experiences		Family members in the same specialty	
Opportunity to do research		Comfortable lifestyle	
Interest in the specialty		Sense of calling	
Others (Please specify):			

**10. According to you, at what stage of MBBS will a medical student be able to clearly have an idea as to what specialty one is interested in?**

- a) At the time of joining MBBS                      b) End of I year                      c) End of II year  
d) End of III year                                      e) End of final year                      f) End of internship

**11. Subsequent to completion of your specialty of choice, if you are given an opportunity to serve in rural or remote parts of the country, would you be willing to do so?**

- a) Yes    b) No    c) Not sure

**12. On a scale of 1 to 5 (where, 1=not important and 5=very important), how would you rate the importance of having a specialty degree to serve in the rural/remote areas, in comparison to MBBS?**

Mention your rating: \_\_\_\_\_