

# **Medical Tourism: Clustering hospitals based on the neighborhood characteristics**

## **Background/Problem Definition**

The push for international standardization of hospitals across the globe has enabled quality healthcare facilities across the globe. The rising healthcare costs is pushing people across the globe to look for cheaper alternatives for medical treatment without compromise on the healthcare service quality. This need has created a new tourism market known as medical tourism. In many cases, patient has to go to different countries for availing medical treatment. In such scenario, they may be accompanied by a carer or attendant when traveling across the country.

The length of stay in the hospital could vary from few days to few weeks based on the medical requirements. In case of long stay, it may be important for patient and carer to select hospital which may be present in the neighborhood that may more closely reflect their native place facilities. However, no such facility is available that could cluster the relevant hospitals based on their neighborhood. Hence, this study focuses on developing algorithm to cluster the hospital based on their neighborhood characteristics. Such geographical characterisation of medically at par hospitals would allow more customized healthcare facility options to patients and would help in providing better services to the patient. ality characteristics.