

Implications of and Policy Direction for International Trade in Health Services in the Philippines



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Background

- ✓ International trade is a growing global process giving economic benefits to trading partners but little is known on its impact to health
- ✓ There is growing attention on trade in health services in the SEA region but little is known in the Philippines
- ✓ Trade in health services in the Philippines is flourishing. While it can bring potential economic gain, it has social, ethical and legal implications like exploiting the poor. This is particularly the case where foreigners seek health services in the Philippines
- ✓ Philippine health system strives to provide universal health coverage for all Filipinos but health inequity is still a major challenge. Moreover, the Philippine health system has no understanding of the implications of trade in health services sought by foreigners in the country and no policy to safeguard the poor from adverse impacts

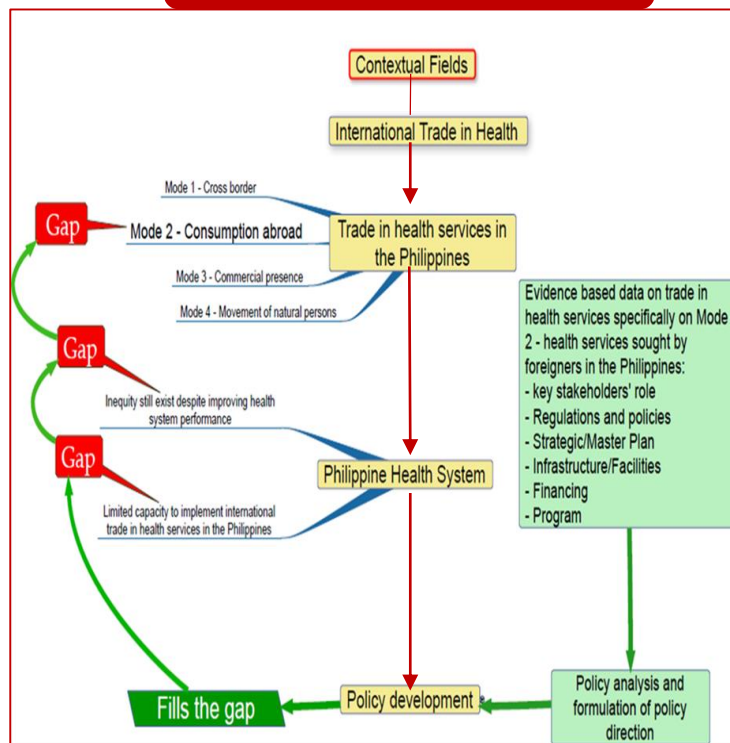
Research aim

To examine the implications of trade in health services sought by foreigners in the Philippines so as to provide recommendation for future policy direction

Methodology

Case study approach using in depth interviews of health service providers and health policy makers in the Philippines.

Conceptual framework



Rationale of the research

Potential economic gain but with ethical & legal implications leading to exploitation of the poor & vulnerable

- Reduce adverse effects & exploitation
- Increase economic benefit

Give policy direction

Evidence based research data

