

1.3 HOSPITAL PLANNING

The general public is now more alert to its health and in accepting the role of the hospital in its daily life.

Today's Patients are Better Informed

Today's patients are better informed and know more about health care services.

This is why they make their own decisions- they shop for and select the best hospital; they choose their doctor or change him.

Having become cost conscious, they demand quality care at a reasonable price.

Hospitals of Yesteryear

Health care has come a long way since Florence Nightingale tended the harmed soldiers in the Crimean War. Back then, it was largely weak loving care. There wasn't enough of treatment and health care.

The institution that we know today as the hospital is phenomenon of the last century.

Technological Advances

With the rapid development and advances in technological, medical and administrative sciences and innovative techniques and therapies, today's hospitals will become disappearing within a short time.

One cannot even guess at the future miracles of medicine.

That is why one planning design expert said, "We have got to design 'smart' hospitals that respond to present needs while anticipating future changes."

In the early days, we talked of only general hospitals. Then came specialties in hospitals and now we are planning and designing superspecialty hospitals operated and managed by superspecialists.

When our health is at stake, we want quality, whatever it takes. We demand the best and are willing to pay for it.

Why Health Care Costs are High?

Today, health care costs are rising dramatically. That is largely because of the tremendous advances that have come about in treatment, technology and equipment.

For example, equipment such as the MRI, CT Scan, ultrasound, mammography, simulator and linear accelerator are so common and so necessary in today's health care treatment requires huge investment.

On the treatment side, a cardiac patient who once would have been treated with drugs can now have a bypass operation or a pacemaker implant that would cost him a great deal of money. He recovers in the technologically advanced and sophisticated Coronary Care Unit (CCU) that would cost him Rs. 1,000 or more per day.

A person who at one time would have died of kidney failure now receives dialysis at considerable cost; alternatively he can have a new kidney – a transplant that would cost upward of a lakh of rupees.

Many hospitals fit the bill as "hospitals of people's choice." They are operated efficiently and furnish

a high standard of patient care.

And yet, there are a vast number of hospitals in India in which standards of care are low. These standards must be improved if those hospitals have to meet people's growing expectations.

Today's patients recognize the distinction between good and commonplace hospitals.

1.3.1 Planning for a New Hospital

In the establishment of a hospital, the first step is always a dream or an idea born in the mind of an individual. If the idea is appealing, the originator is able to gather support of other people.

A committee is then formed and is given the authority to undertake preliminary work such as a feasibility study and to raise funds to meet the expenses involved in the survey and study.

All successful hospitals, are built on a triad of good planning, good design and construction, and good administration. The success of a hospital is generally measured by the quality of patient care it provides and the efficiency with which it operates. It must be noted that a strong management is essential for the daily functioning of a facility and this must be included in the plans for a new hospital.

To be successful, a hospital requires a great deal of preliminary study and planning. It must be designed to meet the needs of the people it is going to serve. It must be staffed with adequate number of efficient doctors, nurses and other professionals.

The promoters must be made aware of and assume responsibility for the creation of well planned and well designed hospitals that are efficient, functional and economical so that they will render quality and adequate care to the community they serve.

1.3.1 Planning involves six question

- 1.3.1.1 What we expect to do?
- 1.3.1.2 Why it will be done?
- 1.3.1.3 Where will it be done?
- 1.3.1.4 When we expect to do it?
- 1.3.1.5 Who all are going to do it?
- 1.3.1.6 How will it be done?

1.3.2 Planning Team

- 1.3.2.1 Hospital administrator
- 1.3.2.2 Specialists from various clinical branches
- 1.3.2.3 Nursing advisor
- 1.3.2.4 HR manager
- 1.3.2.5 Civil and electrical engineers
- 1.3.2.6 Representative of local body

1.3.2.7 Senior architect

The graphic presentation of the different stages in promoting and building a new hospital is as

