

## **1.5 FUNCTIONAL PLANNING**

Functional planning in hospitals is important, and the key to this is the understanding that travel and adjacencies affect the operational cost over the life of the building.

The main function of a hospital is to provide the population with complete health care; it also functions as the center for the training of health workers.

Following are some of the broad categories of Hospital functions:

**Medical care** - which involves the treatment and management of patients through the staff of physicians.

**Patient Support** - which relates directly to patient care and includes nursing, dietary diagnostic, therapy, pharmacy and laboratory services.

**Administrative** - which concerns the execution of policies and directions of the hospital governing discharge of support services in the area of finance, personnel, materials and property, housekeeping, laundry, security, transport, engineering and board and other maintenance.

### **1.5.1 Functional planning covers the following activities.**

1. Determining approximate section wise workload.

2. Determining services to be provided (for inpatients/ outpatients, for other departments, smaller hospitals and private practitioners).

3. Determining area and space requirement to accommodate equipment, furniture and personnel in technical, administrative and auxiliary functions.

4. Dividing the area into functional units, biochemistry, microbiology, histopathology, urinalysis, etc.

5. Determining the number of workstations in each functional unit/division and deciding the linear bench space allotted for each work station.

6. Determining the major equipment and appliances in each unit. This is generally classified into:

i. Technical equipment peculiar to certain workstations

ii. Other equipment and appliances e.g. (refrigerators, hot air ovens, centrifuges) that can be jointly used by different workstations or units.

7. Determining the functional location of each section in relation to one another, from the point of view of flow of work and technical work considerations.

8. Identifying the electrical and plumbing requirements for each area/work station. Independent electric circuits are required for electronic equipment items. Location of sinks and wash areas are vital for efficient performance of workstations.

9. Considering utilities, lighting, ventilation (forced or normal exhaust, air-conditioning and air hygiene) and isolation of equipment or workstations.

10. Working out the most suitable laboratory space unit, which is a standard module for work areas. A standard module facilitates rearrangement of work units with least disruption and minimal structural changes.

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