

A Framework for Hospital Characterization

Yasaman Parsia, Puteri Fadzline Muhamad Tamyez and Shahryar Sorooshian
Faculty of Industrial Management, University Malaysia Pahang, Pahang, Malaysia

Abstract: One of the important factors of each society is health. Providing health-care services should be at the first level of society plans in each country. It is important to pay huge attention to build suitable structure for hospital developments. Modern hospitals may have variety units and departments, for instance, outpatient, inpatient, medical and supporting departments. Moreover, each of the departments maybe has some sub-departments. Therefore, it is important to present a framework to characterize hospitals for deeper understanding of such a modern healthcare centre requirements as it is attempted in this technical note.

Key words: Hospital, department, unit, healthcare centre, framework, Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

Today, one of the vital needs of humanity is healthcare that provided with in many different types of facilities such as hospital (Mohamed *et al.*, 2016; Jayasutha, 2010). The scientific journals are very active in publishing research on hospitals and hospital management. However, based on the review of published studied, researchers find that the journals are lacking on characterization of hospitals types and units. This letter tries to fill this gap of publication to help the modern hospital research fields.

The hospital is a complex organisation for the nursing care and medical of injured persons and patient by use of specialized scientific equipment and team of trained staff educated in the problems of Modern medical science and for the training of the professional doctors and care nurses (Jayasutha, 2010; Gecikli, 2014). Based on definition of world health organization, a hospital is known as an organization which provides in-patient accommodation for medical care. As it was suggested by Hearld *et al.* (2008) this note attempts to structure a framework for hospital characterization.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This letter is structured based on qualitative research approach. The observations and experiences of the authors are the first method to achieve our expected results. The second supporting method is literature review. The secondary data (published online literature) is used to present the final framework of this study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are variety types of hospitals based on the different criteria (ownership or management, bed capacity or size, main objectives of the hospital, etc.). The hospital types are categorized in Table 1, based on a few references (Gecikli, 2014; Jamison, 2006).

Each type of hospitals present different medical care services to society in their departments (Gecikli, 2014). The organizational structure and departments of today's hospital is many and complex. Different kinds of hospital departments are listed mentioned in Table 2 (Goldsmith, 2012; Branch, 1998). Moreover, hospital supporting units can be listed as:

- Central disinfection and sterilization
- Catering and food services
- Educational affairs department
- Cleaning and laundry
- Human resources department
- Finance department
- Medical maintenance and engineering
- Laboratory (Parasitology, Clinical Biochemistry, Bacteriology, etc.) and even blood bank
- Patients services department
- Medical records department
- Physiotherapy department
- Social research department
- Pharmacy
- Transportation department
- Public relations department
- Housekeeping department
- X-ray department
- Purchasing department
- Administration

Table 1: Types of hospital (Gecikli, 2014; Jamison, 2006)

Criteria	Type of hospital	Characteristic and definition
Bed capacity or size	Small size	Bed capacity of ≤ 100
	Medium size	Bed capacity of $\geq 101, < 300$ beds
	Large size	Bed capacity of $\geq 301, < 1000$ beds
Ownership	Government or public	>Run by central or state governments or local bodies on non-commercial lines >Funded by the government
	Non-government	>Supported by client's fees, donations or endowments >Classified as either non-profit organization or proprietary
Objectives of the hospital	Teaching-cum-research	>Training of doctors and researcher >Healthcare
	General	>Provide medical care >Treat common diseases >Education and teaching
	Specialized	>Giving medical and nursing care in a specific part of body, e.g., heart hospital
	Isolation	>When client requiring isolation or suffering from communicable diseases are taken care of
	Rural	>Provide medical and nursing care and offer inpatient accommodation >Located in rural areas permanently staffed by one or more physicians
Systems	Long-term care or chronic care	>The client stays in the hospital for a long time and the disease may be of chronic nature
	Short-term care or acute care	>The client stay in the hospital for a short period only and the disease is usually of acute nature
Management	Run by union government	>Funded by government for instance, hospitals run by army
	Run by state government	>Funded and administered by state government
	Run by local bodies	
	Autonomous bodies	>Operational responsibility to the hospital governing board
	Private	>Usually supported and granted by government
	Voluntary	>Owned by a non-profit or even profit organisation >Privately funded through payment by patients themselves. >Supported in part by voluntary contributions and under the control of a local
Different levels of care	Primary-level	>Few specialties >General practice >Limited laboratory services available for general
	Secondary-level	>Such as: general hospital and rural >200-800 beds, >5-10 clinical specialties, Such as: regional hospital
	Tertiary-level	>specialized staff with highly technical and modern equipment Such as: central hospital and national

Table 2: Different kinds of hospital departments (Goldsmith, 2012)

Department	Sub-department	Definition
Inpatient Department (IPD)	-	For hospitalized overnight or for a week or more
Outpatient Department (OPD)	-	For not hospitalized for full day (24 h) or more
Medical departments	Surgery department	Deals with: General surgery unit; Ophthalmic surgery; Ear Nose Throat (ENT) surgery Orthopedics unit; Cardiac surgery; Urinary tracts surgery; Neurology and brain surgery Plastic and reconstructive surgery; Children surgery
	Internal diseases department	Includes specialties of; Neurology; Diabetics; Cardiology; Digestive system; Dermatology Infectious diseases; Endocrine glands or endocrinology; Internal diseases; Kidney and urology unit; Lung or pulmonary diseases; Hematology diseases; Oncology; Rheumatic diseases; Otolaryngology; Radiology department; Psychiatry clinic
	Pediatrics department	Deals with the medical care of infants, adolescents and children
	Dentistry department	Deals with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, disorders and conditions of the oral cavity, especially the teeth
	Anesthesia	Give anesthetics for operations
	Obstetrics and gynecology department	Investigate and treat problems of the female reproductive organs and urinary tract
	Emergency department	Also known as emergency room, accident and casualty department or emergency department
	Nursing	Provides nursing to patients at clinics in addition to specialized services/care to inpatients at all departments

CONCLUSION

This technical note provides a list of hospital types and units and a modern hospital characterization. The authors believe that a deep understanding on department characters in hospital can have a critical role for hospital managers and hospital management researchers.

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