



STUDY ON GREEN STRATEGIES BASED ON NURSES' PERSPECTIVE IN A SELECTED HOSPITAL

Management

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ABSTRACT

Background: Patient care experience in a healthcare setup can be enhanced through the implementation of green strategies. In this point of view it is essential to know the concept and explore the importance of green strategies in hospitals. **Materials and Methods:** A structured questionnaire was used to collect the opinion and knowledge of staff nursing about green strategy concept. **Result:** The result showed that the nurses were aware about green concept and majority of the nurses had high concern and they opined that green strategies are highly important. Majority of the nurses ranked training as the upmost measure to create awareness of green strategy among the staff.

KEYWORDS

Green strategies, awareness, nurses' perspective.

INTRODUCTION:

Green strategy is a concept for people to learn how to make environmentally friendly choices. The green moment is dedicated to helping people become more aware of how daily choices affect the planet. Going green is also a concept that advocates making small changes to promote healthier and more environmentally friendly living. Hospital plays a pivotal role in protecting people's health. But they may also have a surprising unhealthy side, inadvertently contributing to illness and pollution by exposing patient and staff to a brew of toxins from building materials, medical waste, and cleaning production.

Hospital is behind other industries in employing energy conservation initiatives, including the use of renewable energy resources. But times are changing as they realize that wasted energy drains their bottom and that they have a responsibility to reduce their carbon footprint for health of surrounding communities. Green healthcare offers the potential to safeguard the environment, an increasingly compelling challenge. The study attempts to explore the importance of green strategies in hospitals.

Developing green or sustainable building is "the practice of increasing the efficiency with which buildings and their sites use energy, water, materials, and reducing building impacts on human health and the environment, through better sites, design, construction, operation, maintenance and removal, the complete building life cycle.¹ A green and healthy hospital is the one that promotes public health by continuously reducing its environmental impact and ultimately eliminating its contribution to the burden of disease. A green and healthy hospital recognizes the connection between human health and the environment and demonstrates that understanding through its governance, strategy and operations. It connects local needs with environmental action and practices primary prevention by actively engaging in efforts to foster community environmental health, health equity and a green economy.²

Green hospital points to a hospital that see environment as part of their quality service. It includes characteristics such as strategic location, efficient use of water, energy and air pollution and the use of fine materials. It can produce other products, keep indoor quality, and provide good food and green environment as well. It has orientation for green products, non-toxic environment, green cleaning and reduction of waste and provides a healing garden.³ The protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue which affects the well-being of people and economic development throughout the world, it is the urgent desire of the people of the whole world and the duty of all governments.⁴ The primary goal of designing a green building should be to reduce the use of resources such as land, water, energy, and supplies so that the people who live, work, learn and heal in green buildings are healthier, happier and more productive.⁵

The main mission of the hospital is to promote human health, it cannot be assumed as an island apart from its urban environment. "Green Hospital", as an approach to address environmental challenges and to meet communities need in health issues, has emerged recently as a try to improve the health, in line with its main mission. In this approach, all

the environmental aspects of waste management are important and to be addressed. Hospitals' administrators can manage wastes disposal through composting, recycling and better supplying methods (downsizing packaging, using reusable products instead of disposables and using recycled products.⁶ Sustainability green Concepts adopted by the hospital are the implementation of eco-cultural concepts, modern and local identity appearance, green gate access concept for the elderly and disabilities people, low maintenance concept, minimization of energy resources, alternative energy utilization, minimization the negative environmental impact, the Integrated Design Process, eco-friendly parking area concept, anticipation efforts to the heat island effect, and the application of pedestrian facilities included cities walk area in hospital to reduce CO² (carbon dioxide).⁷

Modern health care facilities are highly resource intensive. In their bid to provide high quality care to their patients, they are damaging the environment. Hospitals operate non-stop throughout the year, they utilizing sophisticated and modern medical technologies, and perform complex medical procedures, which require adequate lighting and temperature. This cannot be accomplished without more electricity. As the implications of climate change become apparent, water is becoming scarcer but hospitals require more water for cleaning, laundry, hand washing, food preparation, drinking. Unsustainable and inefficient buildings, unsafe disposal of hospital waste and untreated sewage, heavy reliance on processed foods and a fleet of fuel guzzling vehicles are just a few factors that increase the health sector's carbon footprint, thus making the environment sick.⁸

Most of the hospitals, nursing homes and clinics, in both public and private sector, in India have no systems for effective and safe disposal of their waste, which finds its way to the open bins on the roadside or the low lying areas or is discharged into the water bodies.⁹ In order to be environmentally-friendly, health sector can deploy some basic measures like: improvement of hospital design, introduction of sustainable waste-reduction and management strategies, sustainable use of natural resources such as water and energy, and utilization and purchase of such products and chemicals, which have a minimal impact on the environment.¹⁰ Thus green initiatives need to be considered to make environmentally friendly workplace for the nurses and other staff in hospitals..

OBJECTIVES

- To know the concern and importance of green strategies among nursing staff
- To assess the responses of nursing staff regarding measures to create awareness of green strategy

MATERIALS AND METHODS

RESEARCH APPROACH: The research approach adopted in the study was exploratory survey method, It includes collection of information, attitude and opinion directly from the subjects of the study through a structure questionnaire method. The exploratory method of investigation attempts to find out the importance of green strategy and measures to create awareness of green strategy in the hospital.

POPULATION: The population consists of staff nurses working in the general wards in a selected hospital.

SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES: Sample size of 50 nurses were selected using convenience sampling technique.

TOOLS AND TECHNIQUE: A structured questionnaire was used to collect the opinion from the nursing staff on green strategies

FINDINGS

Collected data was analyzed in terms of frequency and percentage and the data is presented in tables and figures.

Table 1: Responses of the nursing staff regarding their concern towards green strategy

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Highly Concerned	42	84
Concerned	8	16
Not Concerned	0	0

Table 1 shows that majority (84%) of the staff nurses were highly concerned and 16% were concerned with the green strategy.

Table 2: Response of staff nurses regarding how important it is for hospitals to develop green strategies in current situation.

Table 2 shows that majority (64%) of the staff nurses responded that it is highly important and 20% responded that it is important for hospitals to develop green strategies

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Highly important	32	64
Important	18	36
Moderately important	0	0
Unimportant	0	0
Total	10	100

Table 3: Responses of nursing staff regarding measures to create awareness of green strategy

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Policies	10	20
Training	25	50
Circulars	15	30
Others	0	0
Total	50	100

Table 3 shows that majority (50%) of the nurses responded that training must be provided to create awareness of green strategies, 30% said that circulars would create awareness of green strategies and 20% said that policies need to be implemented to create awareness of green strategies among nursing staff.

DISCUSSION

Assessment of green initiatives in hospitals is an adequate measure to plan for implementing greener strategies for Health Care Organizations. The study is a primary in assessing the awareness and attitude of nursing staff on green initiatives.

The results showed the concern of the nursing staff towards implementing green initiatives. The nurses were highly concerned on this aspect. This shows the need of implementation of greener concepts for the Health Care setups.

The importance of green initiatives in hospitals is shown in various literatures. It seems necessary to prepare a comprehensive action plan to improve weaknesses in healthcare setup and meet the standards. Trying to perform a green hospital accreditation and receive certification of international authoritative institutions or developing a national standards is also recommended.¹¹

The nurses also felt that green initiatives are highly important in hospitals. Greener aspects in work areas will ensure occupational safety among nurses, by eliminating the adverse effect of the pollutants.

The nurses also opined that, in order to create awareness of green strategies, training, circulars and policies are crucial. The findings of another research showed that inadequate attention to environmental strategies, inadequate training, improper management of wastes,

inadequate allocation of fund for the management of wastewater and emission of pollutants into the air are the most important obstacles in achieving green hospital standards in educational hospitals and developing management strategies and their implementation by continuous training seems essential.¹² Thus there is a need for training and policies in place with regard to green initiatives.

CONCLUSIONS

The research sheds light on the greener concepts of healthcare and the opinion of nurses on these aspects. Nurses agreed that the green initiatives in hospitals are highly important and they were highly concerned with the green initiatives in workplace. The nurses showed the acceptance of training programs, circulars and effective policies for the implementation of green initiatives in the nursing care areas. Thus we can conclude that further research need to be conducted as to the specific areas of study in regard to green initiatives and draw a plan to meet its implementation.

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