



Strange History of Hospitals

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ABSTRACT

Health is a most important for human life. Hospitals provide health services to the public. This paper focused on the history of hospital in the World and India. Different types of hospitals are available in the world. The hospital is a public place for the treatment of the sick people. The word 'hospital' originates from Latin 'hospice'. In the early Greek and Roman civilisation, the temples of the gods were used as hospitals. These hospitals were not separate entities but formed an integral part of the temples. In India, the forerunners of the present hospitals can be traced to the times of Buddha, followed by Ashoka. India could boast of very well-organised hospital and medical care system even in ancient times. Due to development of Hospitals health indicators improved. The government should spent more amount towards improvement of health infrastructure facilities.

KEYWORDS

Health Service, Hospice, Hospitals, Health Infrastructure

Introduction

Health is a most important for human life. Hospitals provide health services to the public. Different types of hospitals are available in the world. The hospital is a public place for the treatment of the sick people. There are doctors, nurses, and other supporting staff in the hospitals. The hospital has a stock of medicines and equipments for the treatment of the patients. Some hospitals are run by funds provided by government and some run by funds of donor. Some private clinics are also in health sector. The hospital provides service to people is greatest. It gives life to the dying people, relieves to patients from their suffering and pains. The importance of hospitals grows much higher when serious accident take place. So hospital is a temple for patients. Therefore it is very important to study about the history of hospital. In this paper an attempt is made to study of history of hospitals.

Literature Review

There is no separate study on history of hospital. Although in many studies it is shown short history of hospital. So it is become very important to study about the history of hospital.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to the study the history of the hospitals in the World and India.

Methodology

The information about the history of hospital is taken from various health related publication.

Data Analysis

Origin of Hospital word

The word 'hospital' originates from Latin 'hospice'. In fact the word hospital, hostel and hotel all derive from the common Latin root hospice. The place or establishment where a quest is received was called the hospitium or hospital. The term hospital has at different times been used to refer to an institution for the aged and infirm, a place of rest, a hostel where people lived as a small community, and an institution for the care of the sick and wounded. Lodging for the pilgrim and the wayfarer was also one of the primary functions of the early hospital. In its earliest form, the hospital was aimed at the care of the poor and the destitute, giving the aura of 'almshouse'.

Hospital History in the world

In the early Greek and Roman civilisation, the temples of the gods were used as hospitals. These hospitals were not separate

entities but formed an integral part of the temples. Little distinction was made between the disease and the supernatural powers that caused diseases, where mysticism and superstition saddled practice, and where more soul healing than physical healing was practised. The Greek and Roman considered the temple of gods and their priests responsible for providing shelter and sustenance to the sick. Charity was the principal source for defraying illness costs of the poor. It was in Greece that Hippocrates-universally acknowledged as the father of western medicine-was born, in 460 BC.

With the birth and spread of Christianity there was an impetus to hospital which become an integral part of the church and its monasteries. Medicine was reverted to religion, the nuns and monks practising it. Gradually, these Christian hospitals replaced those of Greece and Roman. During the crusades (Christian expeditions to recover the Holy land from Mohammedans, 1100-1300 AD) over 19000 hospitals were founded in Europe to cater for those suffering from war injuries and diseases.

The order of St. John was one such sect, responsible for creating chains of hospitals. This order has survived all these centuries and still functions as St. John Ambulance Corps in England with its branches all over the world including India.

Subsequently, certain decrees issued by the Church for divesting religion from medical succour had the effect of lowering the status of the entire medical profession and stopping the monks from practising medicines. In 1163 AD, the Church formally restricted the clergy from working as physician, and this restriction heralded beginning of the end of hospitals towards the end of Crusades (around 1300 AD). During early 19th century, nurses of religious orders were replaced by lay people who treated patients badly. Patients were crowded together in common bad, and infection and gangrene where common place all over the hospitals.

Some of the notable hospitals established in the western world date back to the ancient times. In 542 AD the earliest hospital was founded at hotel Dieu in Parish. St. Bartholomew's hospital in London dates from the year 1123 AD. In keeping with the hospital philosophy than prevalent, there was a generally tendency to lump together the sick, the physically handicapped, the socially unwanted and the pauper all together. The Spanish built the first hospital in Mexico City in 1524 and the French in Canada. In North America, the first

general hospital, Pennsylvania hospital was opened in 1751, Bellevue hospital in New York in 1736 and Massachusetts hospital in 1811 AD. This was followed by establishment of hospitals in quick succession in many other places in USA.

The middle of the nineteenth century saw the arrival of Florence Nightingale on the hospital scene. It fell upon Florence Nightingale to revolutionise nursing by supplementing good intention and humane concern with scientific approach to nursing through the training. The working of the hospitals underwent a sea change as a result of her efforts when she was sent to attend the sick and wounded at the Crimean War (1853-1856 between the joint forces of Britain and France with Russia, total casualties: Allies-252000, Russian-256000) in 1853. This was the turning point in the history of hospitals in the Western World.

Various developments in medical science gave impetus to further progress in the hospital field. Discovery of anaesthesia and the principles of antiseptics (antiseptics was to follow later) were two most important influences in the development of the hospitals. Discovery of steam sterilisation was in 1886. X-ray in 1895 and rubber gloves in 1890 revolutionised surgical treatment and gave further Philip to hospital development. Great progress was being made in a cellular pathology, clinical microscopy, and bacteriology and so on during the period from 1852 to 1900, and each one of these had a definite impact on hospital progress.

Besides the scientific advances during this period, rapid industrialisation during the last quarter of 19th century generated enormous funds in the western world. Hospital development in 20th century has, therefore, been explosive, especially in the USA and Europe. A hospital was no longer place where people went to die. The advances in the medical science brought about by antibiotics, radiation, blood transfusion, improvement in anaesthetic techniques and the spectacular advances in surgical techniques and medical electronics have all brought about tremendous growth and improvement in hospital services.

History of Indian Hospitals

Early Indian rulers considered the provision of institutional care to the sick as their spiritual and temporal responsibility. The forerunners of the present hospitals can be traced to the times of Buddha, followed by Ashoka. India could boast of very well-organised hospital and medical care system even in ancient times. The writings of Sushruta (6th century BC) and Charaka (200 AD) the famous surgeon and physician respectively were considered standard works for many century with instructions (in Charaka Samhita) for creation of hospitals for provision of lying-in and children rooms, maintenance and sterilisation of bed linen with steam and fumigation, and use of syringes and other medical appliances. Medicines based on Indian system were taught in the ancient university of Taxila. Charaka Samhita, a treatise on medicine based on teaching of Charaka was written around 600 AD and Sushruta, Samhita a treatise of surgical knowledge, was compiled during 400 AD.

The most notable of the early hospital were those built by King Ashok. There were rituals laid down for the attendants and physicians who were enjoined to wear white cloths and promise to keep the confidence of the patients.

However, the age of Indian medicine started its decline from the Mohammedan invention in 10th century. The Mohammedan brought with them there Hakims who followed the Greek system of medicine which came to be known as "Yunani". This system and its physician started to prosper at the expense of Ayurveda and its Vaidyas. However, the influence of Ayurveda continued in the South.

The modern system of medicine in India was introduced in the 17th Century with the arrival of European Christian missionaries in south India. In the 17th century, the East India Company-the forerunner of British Empire in India- had established its

first hospital in 1664 at Chennai for its soldiers and in 1668 for civilian population. European doctors started getting popular and during the later part of 18th and early 19th century, there was a steady growth of modern system of medical practice and hospitals, pushing the indigenous system to the background. Organised medical training was started with the first medical college opening in Calcutta in 1835, 2 in Delhi in 1835 and 1836, followed by Mumbai in 1845 and Chennai in 1850.

As the British spread their political control over the country, many hospitals and dispensaries originally started to treat the army personnel were handed over to the civil administrative authorities for treating civil population. Local government and local self government bodies (municipalities etc.) were encouraged to start dispensaries at tehsil and district level. In 1885 there were 1250 hospitals and dispensaries in British India. But the medical care scarcely reached 10 percent of the population (Sakharkar, 2009).

Hospitals and Health Indicators in 1947

When the country became independent in 1947, the health scenario was quite unsatisfactory. The bed to population ratio, Doctor to population ratio and Nurses to population ratio was 1:4000, 1:6300 and 1:40000 respectively. The population was distributed in urban and rural areas in the proportion of 20:80. But there was a great disparity existed in the facilities available in urban and rural areas. The medical resources polarised in the ratio of 80:20.

On the eve of independence in 1947, there were 7400 hospitals and dispensaries in the country with 11000 beds giving a bed to population ratio of 0.25 per 1000. There were 47000 doctors, 7000 nurses, 19 medical colleges in the country.

Health indicators in India during 1947 showed that the crude death rate was 27.2 per 1000, Infant Mortality rate was 162 per 1000 live births. Death less than 10 years of age was 48 per cent of total death. Life expectancy at birth was 30.9 years and infectious disease accounted over 50% of total deaths. (Nair; Pillai, 2009)

Health Status after Independence

Due to development of health facilities in India, health indicators have been improved. In 2010, Crude Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate were 7.2 and 47 respectively and Life Expectancy at birth in 2002-06 was 62.6 and 64.20 years for male and female respectively. In 2010, there were 147069 Sub centres, 23673 PHCs and 4535 CHCs functioning in India (Family Welfare Statistics in India, 2011).

Limitation of the Study

This study is on the base of available literature on history of hospitals. It is not possible to use statistical tools for data analysis.

Conclusion

Healthcare service is the fast growing sector in the world. Hospital is become a very important service sector in the world. It is a place patients get treatment and relieves from suffering pain. At present health tourism also developed. Health indicators are improved due to development of hospitals and healthcare facilities. Government should start spent on health infrastructure facilities for the improvement of health status in India.

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