“HRM Issues and Challenges in Health Care Units in India”

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I. Introduction

India’s healthcare sector is making impressive strides into the future by emerging as one of the largest service sectors. According to a joint report of CH McKinsey (2006), in 2004 national healthcare spending equaled 5.2 per cent of national GDP (Rs.158.20 billion). Healthcare spending in India is estimated to rise by 12 per cent per annum throughout the period 2005-09 (in rupee terms) and scale up to about 5.5 per cent of GDP by 2009.1 Healthcare in India covers not merely areas of providing medical care, but also all aspects of preventive care. It includes the medical care rendered by the public sector and the initiatives taken by the private sector.

Thus delivery of good healthcare is the basic activity of a hospital. It is an area of concern of the Central/State Government, local body or the appropriate authority because healthy people make a healthy nation. In India, health, and particularly hospitals, has always featured in all the budgets and Five-Year Plans.

In recent times, these practices are Human resource being used as a tool for meeting the objectives of the organization, rather than being restricted to the traditional approach (Negi 2013) Human Resource Management is the process of bringing people and organizations together so that the goals of each are met (Rao 2005). This has emerged as one of the major functions of any enterprise. This means focused human resources planning, recruitment, selection, placement, training, development, performance appraisal, compensation administration, incentives, employee benefits, social security, industrial relations, employee grievances, collective bargaining, personnel records and accounting and many other fields directly or indirectly related to management of human resources. According to Niles (2013) the important role that human resource management activities play in the operations of a healthcare organization. Human resources can be applied to any activity of the operations of an organization, regardless of the industry. The role of HRM as briefly discussed has different functions in the health care management these are including legal and ethical issues of the treatment, health and safety of employees and patients, careers in health care, labor unions in health care. job analysis and design, recruiting and selecting employees, employee benefits, training and motivating employees, and terminating employees. Strategic planning, including labor budget and forecasting, is addressed because of the contribution of HRM to successful strategic planning. The increased diversity of the patient and employee, the effect of technology and the globalization of the economy on healthcare delivery, the new trend of medical tourism, and the increased focus on accountability in the delivery of services and teamwork education are exciting changes in health care, which ultimately will improve patient care.
OBJECTS OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study were
- To assess the Human Resource Management processes and practices in to large hospitals in India
- To know the specific problems in health care HR in large hospitals in India
- To know the impact Human resource management on health care unit.
- To give some recommendation based on study.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

In order to know the Human resource management practice of Hospitals in India, Data were collected through secondary data like Books, Journals, research thesis, News paper etc.

DEFINING HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Human resource management (HRM) is the management of an organization’s workforce, or human resources. It is responsible for the attraction, selection, training, assessment, and rewarding of employees, while also overseeing organizational leadership and culture and ensuring compliance with employment and labor laws (Ulrich, 1996; O’Brien, 2009; Patrick, 2011). Naturally, the definition of human resource management would be incomplete without further explaining what the terms of ‘human resources’ and ‘management’. First and foremost, people in work organizations, endowed with a range of abilities, talents and attitudes, influence productivity, quality and profitability. People set overall strategies and goals, design work systems, produce goods and services, monitor quality, allocate financial resources, and market the products and services. Individuals, therefore, become ‘human resources’ by virtue of the roles they assume in the work organization. Employment roles are defined and described in a manner designed to maximize particular employees’ contributions to achieving organizational objectives (Zaria, 2007)

THE ROLE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF HRM

Arabah Hajj (2012) has done research on “Evaluation of the efficiency of the use of human resources for health in public hospitals: An Empirical Study on a sample of hospitals”. The study emphasized on the importance of previous indicators to measure the efficiency of the performance of human resources in hospitals, especially public hospitals, which are in urgent need to assess the efficiency of the performance human elements, and doing precise measure will help the hospital management to strive towards improving how to use these resources. The study recommended the following, the need to pursue the efficient use of human resources for health constantly, and even non-health (which is unrelated to health work, security guards, maintenance workers, etc.), and prepare a map showing the distribution of human resources for health for all individuals working in the hospital, based on the distribution of the family, and the specialty for all health professions and medical professionals, making it easier to refer to them when there is a defect or waste in the use of these resources Adwan (2008) with his study entitled “The Reality of workforce planning in the nongovernmental health sector in the provinces of Gaza”, showed that institutions do not engage workers in the planning processes of the workforce sufficiently, and that the influential considerations of administrative structure regulatory in the process of workforce planning is characterized by lack of clarity, as well as the professional experience in manpower planning and top management support for the process of workforce planning was ineffective. The study recommended to prepare plans and clear vision in a professional and systematic approach to develop human resources in the hospital, with the need to involve employees in the planning of human resources to become part of their thinking and their work and to help them to practice work in a professional sound, and encourage them to commit to the hospital, the study also urge to create a separate department for personnel affairs in the health institutions and the use of external expertise in order to determine the needs of the health institution of human resources. Mukhaimar and Taamenah (2004) with their studies entitled “Recent trends for the hospital management: concepts and applications”, the researcher found that although the quality of the plans and organizational structures and preparing them according to the scientific methods, the hospital management could fail in achieving the planned objectives as a result of its failure to perform routing function, which is designed to influence the behavior of the various categories of personnel in the hospital, and urge them to contribute to high level of performance towards the goals of their units in particular and to their hospital in general. In addition to that the study concluded that the function of director of the hospital is not only to provide diagnostic and treatment services and associated procedures, but it also drew attention to the feelings of the various categories of workers in the hospital, including doctors, technicians and administrators, and therefore understand the conditions under which work will be done in the shade, it also must be given their morale and satisfaction for the work that they have in the same level when they provide diagnostic and therapeutic services.
II. Competencies Of Human Resources Management In Health Care Sector

Identification, Analysis and programming of the human resources and: It Includes Data collection, analysis, and determination of the overall human resources situation, availability, composition, structure, and distribution of human resources; the output of human resources by educational institutions. Comparison with a particular pattern or standard to identify gaps and needs which can be determined using the best available methods, based on the characteristics of the health services system and the possibility of obtaining information. Identification of problems and qualitative and quantitative needs for human resources in consultation with the authorities and relevant actors in the health services system. Preparation of a plan to procure the most appropriate human resources to meet the identified needs.

Staffing: Ensures that the health system obtains a sufficient supply of human resources in all the necessary occupational categories to meet its objectives, as budgetary resources permit. Includes personnel from the labour market, as well as personnel that is needed but not available in the labour market and who must be trained by educational institutions.

Performance management: Its objective is to optimize the productivity and quality of human resource performance in the health services. It includes interventions for performance management as such ways of organizing the work, technology management, formation of work teams, use of incentive systems and ways to evaluate this performance.

Labour relations and personnel administration: Ensures proper management of work contracts, remuneration systems, conditions for the social protection of workers which includes career appointments, incentive systems, relations between the employer and employees, collective working relationships – unions, collective bargaining and the search for effective communication modalities between administration and personnel, as well as ways to enable staff participation in key decisions that affect their performance with the resulting benefit to the population.

Development and Training: Ensures that all human resources in a health system are properly qualified and motivated. Includes interventions that range from the ongoing identification of educational needs, the definition of work competencies, curriculum development, instructional design, education, in the most effective and suitable modalities to meet the established objectives, and evaluation of the competencies acquired. It is a valuable strategy for improving performance and for changing the practices and attitudes of human resources.

Assurance of safety, and the work environment: Ensures the proper environment, conditions, and modes of work organisation to counteract the potentially negative impact of the nature of health work on the health of the staff themselves. Most risks can be minimized with adequate precautions and preventive interventions that emphasise occupational safety and health promotion for the employer and employee alike.

HUMAN RESOURCE: VALUABLE ASSETS IN HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

Human resources, when pertaining to health care, can be defined as the different kinds of clinical and nonclinical staff responsible for public and individual health intervention. As arguably the most important of the health system inputs, the performance and the benefits the system can deliver depend largely upon the knowledge, skills and motivation of those individuals responsible for delivering health services. HRM in health has to function in a sector with some unique characteristics. The workforce is large, diverse, and comprises separate occupations often represented by powerful professional associations or trade unions. Some have sector-specific skills; other can readily move from the health sector to employment in other sectors. The avowed first loyalty of those with sector-specific skills and qualifications (physicians, nurses, etc.) tends to be to their profession and their patients rather than to their employer.

THE IMPACT OF HRM ON THE QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE SERVICE

Salah Mahmoud Diab (2012) In His Study Entitled “Measuring The Dimensions Of The Quality Of Medical Services Provided In The Jordanian Government Hospitals From The Perspective Of Patients And Staff”. The Study Found An Increase Rate To Quit Job Among Doctors And Nurses Working In Hospitals And The Ministry Of Health, And The Low Degree Of Satisfaction And Low Desire Among The Staff To Continue Working In The Hospital, And This Giving Impact To The Low Quality Of Health Services Provided To Patients. The Most Important Recommendations By The Study With Regard To The Condition Of Individuals Working In The Hospital, The Provision Of Material And Moral Incentives For Employees Working In Government Hospitals To Generate Their Desire To Continue To Work And Provide Medical Services Appropriately. Training Courses For Workers In The Hospitals In The Area Of The Dimensions Of Medical Service Quality, And To Deepen The Quality Concept Between The Staff And To Achieve The Quality Dimensions At The Best Degree. Al Kudhat Mohammed (2004), With His Study Entitled “Methods Of
Selecting Staff In King Abdullah In The Light Of Technological Developments,” One Of The Main Findings Of This Study Is The Existence Of A Positive Relationship Between The Personality Traits Of Those Who Have Been Recruited And Technology Employed In The Hospital. In Addition To That The Contrast Of Views Of The Staff About The Availability Of Specialist Personal Attributes Required. It Also Revealed The Existence Of The Impact Of High Technology In The Analysis And Design Work And Job Classification And The Nature Of The Work. A Study Entitled “Determining Staff Requirements In Hospitals”, Ozcan And Hornby (2005). The Study Found That One Of The Reasons For Poor Performance Of Employees In Government Hospitals In Turkey, Was Mainly Due To Lack Of Interest By The Managers Of Head Departments In Government Hospitals To Provide Better Conditions To Hospital’s Staff And Develop Incentives System. The Study Recommended The Adoption Of Incentives System And Rewards For Staff And Nurses Who Perform Good And Choosing A Group Each Month As A Role Model For Individuals Working In The Hospital And Pay Them Special Bonuses To Encourage Other Staff Who Have Not Been Selected, And The Study Emphasized That Adopting This System Will Improve The Performance Of All Individuals Working In The Hospital Dramatically. Valverde And Ryan (2006) In Their Research Entitled “Distributing HRM Responsibilities: A Classification Of Organizations”. The Aim Of This Study To Show That HRM Is Not The Sole Responsibility Of HR Departments, But Also Of Other Agents Inside And Outside The Organization, Such As Top And Line Managers, And External HRM Service Providers. The Researcher Examined How Organizations Distribute HRM Activities And Responsibilities Among These Agents, He Also Attempts To Classify Organizations According To Agent Distribution And To Explore Whether A Number Of Internal And External Context Characteristics Affect This Distribution. The Finding Of This Study Shows That The Model Of HR Function Adopted By An Organization May Not Be Contextually Determined, But Instead It Is A Matter Of Corporate Choice. That Is, Companies Actually Choose What Type Or Model Of HRM They Want And Distribute The Responsibilities Of Their Various Agents Accordingly, Rather Than Being Determined By Organizational Contingencies. The Researcher Concluded That A Large Number Of Organizations Have Proved Very Useful In Identifying A Wide Range Of Behaviors In The Distribution Of HR Responsibilities. Rosemary Lucas (2002) With Her Study Entitled “Fragments Of HRM In Hospitality? Evidence From The 1998 Workplace Employee Relations Survey”, The Study Carried Out To Verify The Rehabilitation Of The Health Sector In Britain From The Perspective Of Human Resource Management And Aimed To Assess The Dimensions Of Human Resources Related To The Rehabilitation Of The Health System And The Formation Of A New Health Sector. The Study Found That Employees Are More Likely To Perceive Their Managers As Antipathy And To Represent Themselves In Dealing With Employment Issues Such As Challenging Management About Their Work, In Disciplinary Proceedings, And In Seeking A Pay Increase. The Study Pointed Out The Importance Of Human Resource Management In The Success Or Failure Of The Health Sector And The Health Sector In Most Countries Focuses On Changes In Building The Organization, Contain Costs, Customer Choice. The Study Emphasizes On The Importance Employees’ Performance And How To Attract Professionals To The Health Sector. The Main Findings Of The Study Are, The Existence Of A Strict Centralization In Most Hospitals, Which Limits The Development Of The Work Of Individuals And Nurses, The Lack Of A New Approach To Develop The Work In The Event Of Performance Failure And The Failure To Protect The Rights Of Workers And Individuals In Hospitals During The Transformation Process In The Health Sector.

III. Managing Human Resources In Health Care Sector

In A Dynamic Environment, Health Managers Need To Combine Leadership, Entrepreneurial And Administrative Skills To Meet The Challenges That The Changing Socio-Political, Economic And Technological Landscape Presents, As Well As The Expectations Of Patients, Health Professionals, Politicians And The Public. Without Good Management We Will Be Unable To Improve Efficiency, Effectiveness And Responsiveness In The Delivery Of Health Services Or Upscale Interventions To Achieve Health Goals (Travis Et Al., 2004).

Hospitals Are Important Vehicles For The Delivery Of Health Care, And Managers Of These Institutions Are To A Large Extent Responsible For Operationalizing The Visions And Objectives That Policy-Makers Have For The Health And Wellbeing Of A Nation (Lehman Et.Al. 2002). However, Despite The Urgent Need To Develop Managers In Hospitals, It Is Important To Identify The Competencies That Are Important For Effective Health-Care Management As Well As The Proficiency Of Managers In These Areas, As Part Of The Overall Management Development Process And In An Effort To Make Training Relevant. In So Doing, We Will Help To Avoid ‘One Size Fits All’ Approaches To Health Management As Well As The Unnecessary Deployment Of Scarce Resources.

Determining And Assessing Competencies Is A Vital Precursor To Improving Professional Development And The Alignment Of Individual Development With The Need Of An Organization Or Profession (Calhoun Et.Al. 2004). The Competency-Based Approach To Professional Development Is Well Accepted In Higher Education (Westera 2001), And In Human Resource Management Literature Where It Is
Regarded As A Critical Part Of The Overall Management Development Process, As It Allows One To Identify The Gaps Between Current Skills And The Skills Required (Brown 2002, Jinabhai 2005). Appropriate Programmes Based On The Personal Needs And Experiences Of Health Managers Can Then Be Put In Place To Train Managers To Provide Leadership And To Ensure A Sustainable Improvement In The Work Context Of Health Workers, And Hence On The Quality Of Care And Health Of The Communities Their Organizations Serve (Gough And Price 2004).

Role Of Good Hrm Practices In Hospitals

In Recent Years, It Has Been Increasingly Recognized That Getting Hr Policy And Management “Right” Has To Be At The Core Of Any Sustainable Solution To Health System Performance. In Comparison To The Evidence Base On Healthcare Reform-Related Issues Of Health System Finance And Appropriate Purchaser/Provider Incentive Structures, There Is Very Limited Information On The Hrm Dimension Or Its Impact. In Many Countries, Access To Health Professional Training And Employment Is Controlled By Standards And Entry Requirements Determined By The Professions, And Aspects Of Their Work Are Regulated. The Health Sector Is A Major Recipient Of Public And/Or Private Expenditure, And Healthcare Delivery Is A Politicized Process. Recent Research Has Also Highlighted A So-Called “Prime Building Block” Of Hrm – The Principle Of “Amo”. There Must Be Sufficient Employees With The Necessary Ability (Skills, Knowledge, And Experience) To Do The Job; There Must Be Adequate Motivation For Them To Apply Their Abilities; And There Must Be The Opportunity For Them To Engage In “Discretionary Behavior” – To Make Choices About How Their Job Is Done. The Authors Suggest That Organizations Wishing To Maximize The Contribution Of Their Workforce Need To Have Workable Policies In These Three Broad Areas.

The Factors That Affect The Performance Of Individuals Working In Health Organizations


A Study Entitled “The Filling In The Sandwich: Hrm And Middle Managers In The Health Sector”, Mcconville And Holden (2003). The Study Showed The Central Role Of Line Managers In Implementing Human Resource Management, Is Widely Acknowledged And Examined How Far Employees Affect, Or Are Affected By, Such Practices. Through A Case Study In Two Trust Hospitals, This Study Demonstrates That Middle Line Managers, Positioned Between The Service’s Decision-Making Bodies And Its Employees, Are Bearing Many Of The Consequences Of The Change Process. The Effects Of Growing Workloads, Combined With Altered Expectations Of Their Increasingly Visible Roles, Have Enhanced The Tensions And Role Conflict Inherent To Their Position. The Study Found That The Perception Of Line E Manager Are Under Resourced And Find Lack Of Time Needed To Manage Their Staff Effectively. Moreover, Staff Is Being More Closely Managed, Changing The Nature Of Personnel Management, And Line Managers Throughout The Service Have Regained Responsibility For Many Aspects Of Hrm. The Main Finding Of This Study Is That As Trusts Become Established, And Managers Gain Confidence In Their Staff Management Skills, Longitudinal Studies Would Be Useful In Building A Picture Of The Development Of Both Middle Management Roles And The Functioning Of Hr Specialists/Advisors. Clearly, In Units Where The Specialist Hr/Personnel Is Contracted Out, The Effects On Managers’ Roles And The Extent Of Changes In The Nature And Quality Of Hrm Need To Be Explored.


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A Study Entitled “Managing Professionals: Exploring The Role Of The Hospital Hr Function”, Mcdermott And Keating (2011). The Objective Of This Study Is To Examine The Role Of The Hr Function In The Management Of Professional And Non-Professional Staff In The Acute Hospital Sector. The Study Finds That In Two Of The Three Cases The Human Resource (Hr) Function Predominantly Provides Services To Non-Professional Workforce Groups. However, The Effective And Strategic Management Of Professionals Is Undertaken In The Third Case, Without A Professional Hr Function. The Study Suggests That Hrm As “The Management Of People And Work” Was Being Practiced, If Not By The Hr Function. As A Result, A Focus On Formal Hrm Structures In Hospital Organizations Is Insufficient To Capture The Manner In Which People And Particularly Strategically Valuable Workforce Groups And Work Are Managed.

IV. Human Resource Issues In Health Care Industry

The large health infrastructure follows a more or less similar pattern across the states. This system faces several managerial problems which are well-recognized and which limit its effectiveness. Following are some of the limitations which are faced by Health Care Industry.

- **Inadequate assessment at the time of recruitment**
  The procedure adopted for recruitment should use procedures which are clearly understood by candidates and which are open to public scrutiny apart from being fair, giving candidates who meet the stipulated minimum requirements equal opportunity for selection. The primary criterion for selection of candidates should be merit and ability. Apart from the eligibility criteria requirements, the system is deficient in assessing the soft skills of candidates like their ability to withstand stress, communication skills, psychological testing, values, attitude, and personality of an individual, etc.

- **Inadequate training**
  Training is the basis for human resource development. Several problems have emerged in the area of training over the past few years. Basic medical education has a heavy focus on urban curative care and is provided in tertiary care settings. This does not prepare doctors for their roles in the rural primary health care system. There is hardly any system of induction training for medical officers of the primary health centres when they join the government health system. Furthermore the medical officers do not have any public health or management training even though they are supposed to manage the staff under them. There is no training for health education, interpersonal communication, doctor-patient and doctor-staff interactions, and counselling. The technically oriented training does not help to bridge the gap between the doctor – who is regarded as supreme – and the clients who are usually poor and illiterate. The Independent Commission on Health in India observed that the standard of teaching in training schools for auxiliary nurse-midwives was very low and that “the main reasons for substandard patient and community care are: substandard training, especially in the staff-nurse, midwife, and auxiliary nurse-midwife training courses, the lack of a proper system of training; and absence of regular reorientation courses.”

- **Centralized planning and target-oriented performance appraisal**
  Central level planning has, over the years, killed many initiatives at the state level to adapt or augment health and family planning programmes to local needs. States lack public health expertise to develop new health programmes and are not allowed to take direct assistance from foreign donors or to collaborate with foreign partners in the health area without clearance from the central government. It has been seen that during the process of performance appraisal, the process of writing ACRs was routine (subjective and generalised) rather than reflective of the individual’s capability (objective and customised) in absence of any output indicators. While reporting, the officer tended to tread a middle path so as to avoid controversy and unnecessary explanations. Moreover, the reviewing officer was not intimately associated with the working of the officer being reported upon to make any realistic opinion.
 Rewards not linked to performance
In the health system, there are no concrete rewards except promotions and salary increments. All promotions and increments are linked to seniority in the system and vacancy available. For many posts, promotions are few anyway. The current system of annual confidential reports does not reflect performance as these reports are written as a routine procedure, indicating satisfactory performance except in very extreme cases. Postings and transfers are also not based on performance but on “government’s wish”, for which there is a lot of scope for political and administrative contacts to be used. The staff who stay at their place of posting and provide 24-hour service get the same salary as the staff who are absent or are available for only three to four hours a day. In such a system, many settle for the minimum acceptable level of performance. Further training is of little help as staffs do not see any personal benefit of the training.

Recommendations
The Reviewing of previous literatures that cover the field of HRM in hospitals and health organizations shows the need for further improvement in any health organization. However, this study sets the following recommendations, Setting a strategy for human resources management, The development of personnel management process, Engage the staff of the hospital in the larger functional tasks in order to give them more confidence in the health institution in which they work, Continuous development and training of staff performance, The need to measure the performance of the managers of HRD in the hospital before starting performance development process, and these measures include (leadership ability, self-qualification, risk management, strategic thinking, decision-making, innovation, management experience, and communications)

V. Conclusions
The study encounters the challenges in relation to HRM. These challenges are lack of staff satisfaction, lack of commitment and initiation, lack of team spirit, poor working condition, under staffing, lack of skilled manpower, high turnover, absenteeism and conflict among staff members are the main challenges faced by hospital managers in relation to HRM, which would have been addressed by putting effective and efficient HRM practices in place. The management of human resources is essential to enable the delivery of efficient and effective medical services and to achieve patient satisfaction, the study shows that human resources management has a strong impact on healthcare quality, and most of literatures show the importance of human resources management to achieve the goals of health organizations, and emphasize to develop the performance of hospital staff and nurses through periodic training in order to improve the quality of healthcare service, also a strong, well-motivated and highly trained medical profession is critical to the success of the national healthcare reform. The practices of HRM are very important in health sector and modern hospitals need should have alternative approaches for practicing HRM successfully The senior management in hospitals should have a clear strategic direction and clear objectives to improve the management of employees and staff in the hospital.

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