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Patient's perception towards service quality of government hospitals an empirical study in Nilgiris district

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Abstract

India is the second most populous country in the world. Although there have been major improvements in public health care sector in since 1950's. The country is passing through demographic and environmental transition which is adding to burden of diseases. And Health care facilities and services in the government hospitals is playing vital role of society and promoting health care service in India. And the most of the people in nilgiris living at rural part of areas and their referring to government hospitals for health checkup and various major and minor diseases and health problems. Because of due to economically below poverty. This study has to reveals perception towards service quality in government hospital for their treatments, The problem of this study reveals in government hospitals were insufficient infrastructure facilities, technological aspect and medical equipments, If a response is promised in a certain time, does nothappen and responding the client quickly, and insufficient doctors. Data have been collected through interview schedule in Nilgiris district.

Keywords: Service quality in government hospitals and insufficient infrastructure facilities, technological aspect and medical equipments, Responsiveness, and insufficient doctors.

Introduction

History of Nilgiris District

The Nilgiris, because of its natural charm and pleasant climate, was a place of Special attraction for the Europeans. In 1818, Mr. Whish and Kindersley, who were assistants to the Collector of Coimbatore, discovered the place Kotagiri near Rangaswamy peak. John Sullivan, the then Collector of Coimbatore was greatly interested in this part of the country. He established his residence there and reported to the Board of Revenue on 31st July 1819.

The Name 'Nilgiris' means Blue hills (Neelam - Blue and giri - Hill or Mountain) the first mention of this name has been found in the Silappadikaram. There is a belief that the people living in the plains at the foot of the hills, should have given the name, the Nilgiris, in view of the violet blossoms of 'kuringi' flower enveloping the hill ranges periodically. The earliest reference to the political history of the Nilgiris, according to W. Francis relates to the Ganga Dynasty of Mysore.

Immediately after the Nilgiris was ceded to the British in 1789, it became a part of Coimbatore district. In August 1868 the Nilgiris was separated from the Coimbatore District. James Wilkinson Breeks took over the administration of the Nilgiris as its Commissioner. In February 1882, the Nilgiris was made a district and a Collector was appointed in the place of the Commissioner. On 1st February 1882, Richard Wellesley Barlow who was the then Commissioner became the First Collector of Nilgiris.

District Administration

The Nilgiris District Comprises of six taluks, Like Udhagamandalam, Kundah, Coonoor, Kotagiri, Gudalur and Pandalur. These taluks are divided in to four Panchayat Unions viz., Udhagamandalam, Coonoor, Kotagiri and Gudalur besides two Municipalities, Wellington Cantonment and Aruvankadu Township. The District consists of 56 Revenue Villages and 15 Revenue Firkas. There are two Revenue Divisional in this district, were Coonoor and Gudalur. There are 35 Village Panchayat and 13 Town Panchayat in this District.

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Name of the Revenue Division	Name of the Taluk	No. of Revenue Firkas	No. of Revenue Villages	Town Panchayat		Village Panchayat
Coonoor	Udhagai	3	13	Udhagai	4	13
	Kundah	2	7			
	Coonoor	3	9	Coonoor	4	6
	Kotagiri	3	15	Kotagiri	1	11
Gudalur	Gudalur	2	8	Gudalur	4	5
	Pandalur	2	4			

The Nilgiris District: Census data on 2011

In 2011, The Nilgiris had population of 735,394 of which male and female were 360,143 and 375,251 respectively. In 2001 census, The Nilgiris had a population of 762,141 of which males were 378,351 and remaining 383,790 were females. The Nilgiris District population constituted 1.02 percent of total Maharashtra population. In 2001. The Nilgiris District Population Growth Rate There was change of 3.51 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, The Nilgiris District recorded increase of 7.31 percent to its population compared to 1991.

Health Sector and Infrastructures

Now-a-day's health care sector playing vital role of the human society. Whether growing population and shortage of health care service providers meet the very big challenges of the growth of human society, particularly government hospitals and their quality of services have been played in very huge role in the rural part of areas.

Even though rapid growth of population and shortage of health care facilities technological aspects in government

hospitals. Government hospitals have been played on essential role of human society at rural areas, and demand of health care service in government hospitals increasing to the Day-by-Day because of the certain factors like, better facilities, services and technological equipments provide to the patients. And due to the several reasons perception of government hospitals and its treatments, infrastructure available, technological equipments with the hospitals, a noble suggestions and other related studies and references.

In Nilgiris There are one District Head Quarters Government Hospital, 5 Taluk Hospitals, 28 Primary Health Centers, 194 Health Sub-Centre's and 5 Plague circles. And The Nilgiris District from its very inception has been a favored health resort of the Europeans and the officials of the Government aswell. At present, the District has 194 Govt. Health Sub Centers, 28 Government. Primary Health Centers, 6 Government Hospitals, 2 Government dispensaries and one District Tuberculosis Centre.

No of Government Hospitals in Nilgiris District in all Regions

S. No	Name of The Hospitals in Ooty	COONOOR	WELLINGTON
1	Govt. H.Q. Hospital	Govt. Lawley Hospital	Military Hospital
2	Govt. Sait Hospital	Sagayamatha Hospital	Cantonment Hospital
3	Vijaya Hospital	Nankem Hospital	KOTAGIRI
4	Saraswathi Mani Hospital	Emanuel Eye Hospital	Govt. Hospital
5	Parvathi Nursing Home	Family Plan. Asso. India	KMF Hospital
6	Sanhita Hospital	GUDALUR	Holy Family Hospital
7	Nirmala Nursing Home	Govt. Hospital	
8	Blisy Eye Hospital	DEVARSHOLA	
9	District TB. Centre	Garden Hospital	
10	ESI Dispensary		

Health and family welfare Hospitals, Dispensaries, Bed Strength, Doctors and Nurses in Nilgiris District Year - 2008 to 2009

Sl. No.	Classification	Modern medicine	Indian Medicine				Total	Homeopathy	Grand Total
			Ayurvedic	Siddha	Unani	Combined			
1	Hospitals	26	-	-	-	-	-	26	
2	Dispensaries	02	-	02	-	-	02	06	
3	Primary health center	28	-	-	-	-	-	28	
4	Health sub center	194	-	-	-	-	-	194	
5	Other medical institutions	00	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	
6	Bed Strength	839	-	-	-	-	-	839	
7	Number of Doctors	74	-	-	-	-	01	75	
8	Number of nurses	105	-	-	-	-	-	105	

No of Allied pathological units available in Nilgiris

Sl. No.	Name of the municipalities	No of pathological units
1	Ooty (M)	01
2	Coonoor (M)	01
3	Udhagamandalam (B)	01
4	Coonoor (B)	01
5	Kotagiri (B)	01
6	Gudalur (B)	01

SNCU Sick Neonatal care units and state health society, Tamil Nadu Published strength of Government Hospital in Nilgiris District. State health society, Tamil Nadu-established of 17 neonatal intensive care units (NICUS sick neonatal care units and health and family welfare EAPII /2 Dept. dated 13/05/2013.

Sl. No	District	SNCU to be Established/ Strengthened	No of staff nurses to be placed on Contract basis	No of medical officer to be placed
1	Nilgiris	Govt Hospital Gudular	10	21

Sl. No	District	Name of the medical college hospital and Govt Head Quarters/Sub (Dst) Hospitals	No of staff nurses to be placed on Contract basis as nutrition counselors
1	Nilgiris	Govt Head Quarters Hospitals Nilgiris	(1)

Objective of the study

- ✓ To found the standard of government hospitals that is understandable to patients.
- ✓ To identifying the facilities for the government hospital.
- ✓ To originate to the government hospitals and their quality of service and treatments.

Statement of the problems

The government hospitals have been played remarkable role in India particularly rural part of areas. As well as economically and financially low level people depends on government hospitals because of their minor and major health problem and their quality of treatment. This study reveals the major problems in government hospitals were insufficient infrastructure facilities, technological aspect medical equipments and medicines, if a response is promised in a certain time, does nothappen and responding the client quickly, and quality of services.

Research Methodology: The percent study analysis and evaluation of the research questions are carried out through the primary and secondary data. Primary data collected through observation and direct interview schedule in government hospitals. The study was conducted in government hospitals and primary health care centers in Nilgiris district. The secondary data have been collected from the newspapers and articles and district administration office at Nilgiris district to support the present study.

Limitation of the study

The period of the study is conducted to two months. And the study will be conducted to admit in different wards and out patients, and study will depend upon the accuracy of information to given by the patients.

Sample size and sampling technique

The sample size preferred for this study 50 respondent which including the general demographic profile of the respondents. And this study has to elect Non-probability sampling methods.

Statistical Tools: The studies were includes statistical tools is a simple percentage calculation and bar chart.

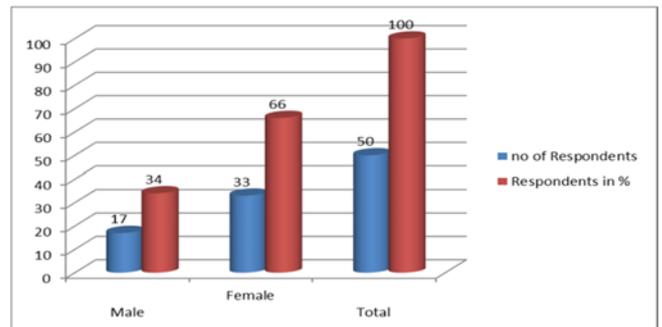
$$\text{Simple percentage} = \frac{\text{No of Respondents}}{\text{Total No of Respondents}} * 100$$

Data Analysis

Table 1: Gender of the Respondents

S. No.	Gender	Respondents in Number	Respondents in %
1	Male	17	34
2	Female	33	66
	Total	50	100

Interview schedule

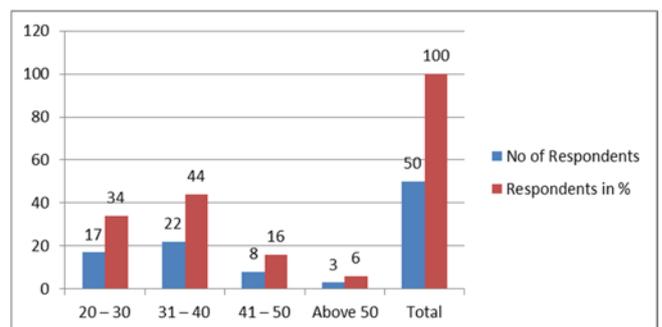


Interpretation: The above table reveals that 34% of the respondents are females and 66% of the respondents are male.

Table 2: Age wise Classification

S.No	Age Group	Respondents in Number	Respondents in %
1	20-30	17	34
2	31-40	22	44
3	41-50	8	16
4	Above 50	3	6
	Total	50	100

Interview schedule



Interpretation: The above table reveals that 44 percentages of the respondents are belongings to the age group of 31 to 40 those who contribute to their views on government hospitals

Table 3: Occupation status

S. No	Occupation	No of Respondents	Respondents in %
1	Agricultural	8	16
2	Daily wages	14	28
3	Employed in professional	24	48
4	Business	2	4
5	Others	2	4
	Total	50	100

Interview schedule

Interpretation: From the above table reveals the status of occupations level respondents 48% of the people are being employed in professional and 28% of respondents in daily wages, 16% in agricultural and both the business and others only 4%.

Table 4: Economic Status

S.No	Economic status	Respondents in Number	Respondents in %
1	Below 5000	20	40
2	5000-7500	3	6
3	7500-10000	19	38
4	Above 10000	8	16
	Total	50	100

Interview schedule

Interpretation: From the above table state income level of the respondents 40% of the respondents below 5,000, Rs.5,000 to 7,500 6%, 38 percentages of the respondents 7,500 to 10,000 and 16 percentages of the respondents above 10,000.

Table 5: Awareness about Government Hospital

S. No	Variables	Respondents in No	Respondents in %
1	Yes	47	94
2	No	3	6
	Total	50	100

Interview schedule

Interpretation: The above table shown as 94 percentages of rural people aware about the government hospitals

Table 6: Satisfaction of services in Government Hospital

S. No	Variables	Respondents in Number	Respondents in %
1	Yes	17	34
2	No	33	66
	Total	50	100

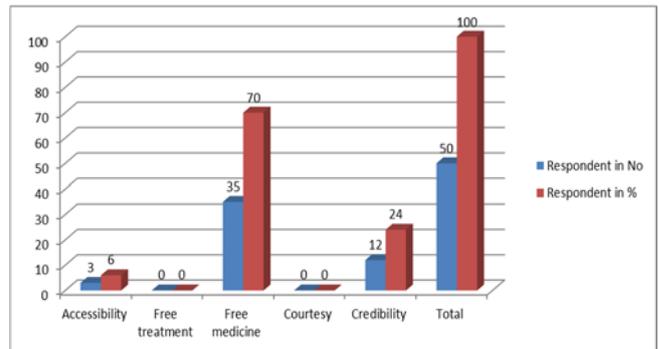
Interview Schedule

Interpretation: The above table shown as whether the government hospitals provide quality of service 34% respondents they said yes and 66 percentages of the respondents said no.

Table 7: Perception of the Respondents on the Reasons to visit Government Hospital

S. No	Variables	Respondents in Number	Respondents in %
1	Accessibility	3	6
2	Free treatment	0	0
3	Free medicine	35	70
4	Courtesy	0	0
5	Credibility	12	24
	Total	50	100

Interview schedule



Interpretation: About 70 percentages of the respondents reveals major reason to visit on government hospital for free medicine

Table 8: Preference and rating for Quality service in Government Hospital

S. No	Variables	Respondents in Number	Respondents in %
1	High	3	6
2	Very high	0	0
3	Normal	35	70
4	Low	0	0
5	Very low	12	24
6	Don't know	0	0
	Total	50	100

Interview Schedule

Interpretation: The above table reveals 70 percentages of the respondents state the choice of preference is normal in quality of service in government hospital.

Table 9: Responsiveness

S. No	Variables	Respondents in Number	Respondents in %
1	Strongly agree	0	0
2	Agree	17	34
3	Neutral	19	38
4	Disagree	14	28
5	Strongly disagree	0	0
	Total	50	100

Interview Schedule

Interpretation: The above table reveals 38% of the Respondents replied responsiveness and caring of Government Hospital in impartial (Neutral).

Table 10: Factor influencing you to select to Government hospital for your treatment

S. No	Variables	Respondents in Number	Respondents in %
1	Free medical treatment	38	76
2	Hospitality and infrastructure	2	4
3	Quality treatment	5	10
4	Free medical camp	5	10
5	Free ambulance facility	0	0
6	Timely attending the case	0	0
	Total	50	100

Interview Schedule

Interpretation: It is learned from the above table that 76% of the respondents have been influenced by the free medical treatment and remaining 24% of the respondents influenced by the infrastructure and quality of treatment.

Table 11: Perception on the Level of Satisfaction of Quality in Government Hospital

S.No	Variables	Respondents in Number	Respondents in %
1	Highly satisfied	0	0
2	Satisfied	17	34
3	Neutral	15	30
4	Dissatisfied	18	36
5	Highly dissatisfied	0	0
	Total	50	100

Interview Schedule

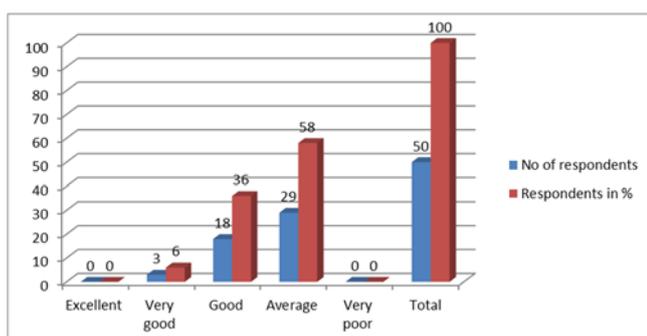
Interpretation: The table reveals about 36 percentages of the respondents felt that qualities of the government hospitals in all aspect were dissatisfied, 34 percentages of the Respondents were satisfied and 30 percentages of the respondents said neutral.

Table 12: Quality of Service in Government Hospitals

S. No	Variables	Respondents in Number	Respondents in %
1	Excellent	0	0
2	Very good	3	6
3	Good	18	36
4	Average	29	58
5	Very poor	0	0
	Total	50	100

Interview Schedule

Interpretation: From the above table reveals that 94 percentages of the respondents replied that the quality of the government hospital in health care service good and average.



Findings and Conclusion

- Patients are satisfied with the government hospitals and the perception is responsiveness of the doctors, staff and they provide quality of service.
- Patients they may feel and expect doctors have been taken more care of the patients.
- Government hospitals and doctors also play an important role in economically and financially low level people, and especially rural part of areas like their minor and major health problem and quality of service and treatments.
- There is a problem faced by the patients in government hospitals, insufficient infrastructure facilities, technological aspect and they want that it should be quality of service and treatment.
- And the infrastructure, free treatment, cost and free medicines are influencing the patients to select a government hospital.

Suggestion and Recommendations

Government hospitals services should be improved in terms of quality of service and treatment, and the doctors should be taken care of the patient and give them response in systematic way. The staffs, nurses and midwives attend the patients in right time of the right place. And this study suggest government should take initiative improve the quality of the government hospitals and its infrastructure facilities. And avoiding noise pollutions and disturbance in general wards. Patient feedback should be collected without fail so as to know the areas to be improved to maximize the customer satisfaction. Patient's rights and responsibilities chart can be displayed in wards even in local language also.

Conclusion

Assessing the satisfaction of patients is simple because of the way evaluation of hospitals service. The percent study reveals patients perception towards service quality of government hospitals. Because service is the intangible aspect we cannot see and touch it, government hospitals played on very important role in major and minor health problem. Most of the patients were satisfied regarding free medical treatment, cost and free medicines, quality of service. Because today's consumer environment looking forward best price, good infrastructure facilities, technological improvement and availability, best payment options and good quality of service. And half of the patients were dissatisfied in government hospitals regarding insufficient doctors, infrastructure, and lack technological improvements. There were no proper responsiveness and quality of service. In maximum of the patient during the study period reveals were satisfied with good quality of service available in government hospitals.

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