

# Analysis of Patient perceptions towards Multi Specialty Hospitals

V. N. Rama Devi<sup>1</sup>, Y. Ramakrishna Prasad<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Associate Professor, GRIET, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

<sup>2</sup>Professor, GRIET, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

## ABSTRACT

Health care quality has become a universal matter. The health care sector is undergoing a rapid transformation to meet the ever-increasing requirements and demand of its patient population. Patient satisfaction is one of the established yardsticks of hospital services. Patients' satisfaction surveys have gained increasing attention as important and vital sources of information for recognizing gaps and developing an effective action plan for quality improvement in the healthcare establishments. As a service industry, hospitals are expected to offer quality of care that its customers require. Therefore, it is important for any hospital management to identify patient's perceptions and expectations of the quality of care on a regular basis. Proper patient survey forms aid them for the assessment of the standards or requirements that are met by their organizations. In this view to measure the quality of healthcare delivery and its impact on patients, we have carried out a study on patient satisfaction of several Multi specialty hospitals in twin cities of the state of Telangana. The analysis identified key factors that lead to satisfaction and dissatisfaction of patients. The key finding in this study is the factor associated with patients' perceptions of care is most vital in patient satisfaction features.

Keywords: patients' perceptions, Patients' satisfaction surveys, Multi -specialty hospitals, healthcare delivery.

## Introduction:

There is no uncertainty that the best resource of any nation is its people. This is because their general well-being determines the overall progress and development of a national economy as enhanced quality of life.

Any nation that has unhealthy population is destined to face difficulty in the implementation of development programs to improve the quality of life of the people. But most of the countries are severely facing a challenge in providing good quality of health care.

Healthcare service scenario is evolving day by day, more focus and emphasis has been given to the patient satisfaction as it is considered core to quality of health care. Hospitals are always faced with the challenge of providing the quality of care that meets the expectation of its clients. As a service industry, hospitals are expected to provide its customers with quality of care they need.

**Review of literature:** Though numerous works have presented this topic, patient satisfaction remains difficult to determine. Few of the papers surveyed are presented in this section:

La Monica ELet.al(1986) have conducted three studies called to develop and test an instrument to quantify hospitalized patients' satisfaction with nursing care. Content validation trials involved both clinicians and

patients (N = 75). An inverse association of satisfaction scores to negative mood states demonstrated evidence of construct validity. Factor analytic procedures (N = 664) failed to confirm the existence of the subscales initially conceptualized for this instrument and others in common use. They identified three new factors viz., dissatisfaction, interpersonal support, and good impression. Reliability coefficients for the total instrument in successive testings were .92 (N = 100) and .95 (N = 533).

VuoriH(1987) had tried to find out whether Patient satisfaction--an attribute or indicator of the quality of care or not.They opined that Systematic measurement of patient satisfaction is occasionally included in routine quality assurance (QA) programs. Practical reasons have been specified to elucidate this omission: the mental and physical state of patients, their lack of the necessary scientific and technical knowledge, the rapid pace of events of care, and methodological problems related to measuring patient satisfaction. However, a strong case can be made to include patient satisfaction in QA, including ethical considerations, philosophical changes occurring in the health care field, and a clear definition of the impact of patient satisfaction on quality care. The author concluded that patient satisfaction is part and parcel of quality health care; that patients are capable of assessing the quality of care; and that patient satisfaction can be measured.

Cleary PD et.al(1989) have tried to find patients' assessments of hospital care. Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston refined a patient survey instrument that gives information on satisfaction with specific areas of care as well as the impact of socio demographic correlates and length of stay on satisfaction. The survey was done to 255 medical patients, 347 surgical patients, and 329 obstetric patients. Results were analyzed using summary scales for ratings of physician care, nursing care, room, and food service. The analysis lead to high ratings of satisfaction though there are several areas to be improved.

Dawn AG.et al(2003) expressed that as physicians and health administrators increasingly incorporate patients' perspectives into health care, patient satisfaction has become a vital health care outcome. However, there is partial knowledge regarding the patient satisfaction measures being used by leading academic medical centers. The objective of their study was to determine the varieties of patient satisfaction measures used by leading academic medical centers. They organized a telephone survey of 16 leading academic medical centers across the United States to evaluate the types of patient satisfaction measures used at each institution for both outpatient and inpatient care. Among the institutions surveyed, a significantly higher percentage used for satisfaction measurement among outpatients than for satisfaction measurement among inpatients.

Kathryn A. Marley et.al(2004) expressed that Managers constantly struggle with the allocation of resources and efforts in managing the complex service delivery system called a hospital. They emphasized that managers' decisions and actions focus on two important aspects of health care where one is that "what" the patient receives as clinical or technical medical care and process performance and the other one is "how" health care services are delivered to patients. They have investigated the role of leadership, clinical quality, and process quality on patient satisfaction. They hypothesized a structural equation modeling and also assessed using a sample size of 202 U.S. hospitals. Statistical results supported the idea that leadership is a good exogenous construct and that clinical and process quality are good intermediate outcomes in determining patient satisfaction. Statistical results also suggested that hospital leadership has more influence on process quality than on clinical quality, which is predominantly the doctors' domain. They also discussed that like hospital managers

must be mindful of the fact that process quality is at least as important as clinical quality in predicting patient satisfaction.

Schoenfelder T. et al (2011) have experimented to find the Determinants of patient satisfaction by conducting a study in an in-patient setting in Germany. The objective of their study is to identify key determinants of patient satisfaction. They have collected a data by random sampling during the period of January 2009 to September 2009 through a questionnaire. A sample of 8,428 patients was contacted from Thirty-nine hospitals in Germany. They have measured Global patient satisfaction, Attributes of medical aspects of care, performance of service and different dimensions of patient expectations. Medical aspects of care and They modeled logistic regression analysis to identify determinants of patient satisfaction with the input of performance of service items. Their study revealed that the outcome of treatment was overall, the most salient predictor followed by nursing kindness as the second most important factor. Items reflecting information receiving about the undergoing procedures do not have a major impact on patient satisfaction. The findings suggest that variables measuring patients' perceptions of care are more important determinants of global patient satisfaction in comparison to demographics and visit characteristics.

Chahal Hardeep et al (2013) in his study revealed that patient satisfaction is a multi-dimensional construct comprised of four dimensions, namely: physical maintenance, physician care, nursing care and internal facilities. Among the four hypothesized models, only model 2 depicting the impact of dimensions on satisfaction showed a good fit while the other three models showed either average (model 4) or poor (models 1 and 3) fit. The analysis of the models indicates that all patient satisfaction dimensions positively and significantly contributes to patient satisfaction and which also act as an important mediating factor between the satisfaction dimensions and patient loyalty.

Rashid Al-Abri\* et al (2014) voiced that Patient Satisfaction Survey is a Tool in order to improve Quality. They expressed that there are very few published studies reporting of the improvements resulting from feedback information of patient satisfaction surveys, and in most cases, these studies are contradictory in their findings. This article explored in-depth a good amount of research studies that critically discourse the association of dependent and independent influential characteristics towards overall patient satisfaction in addition to its effect on the quality improvement process of healthcare organizations.

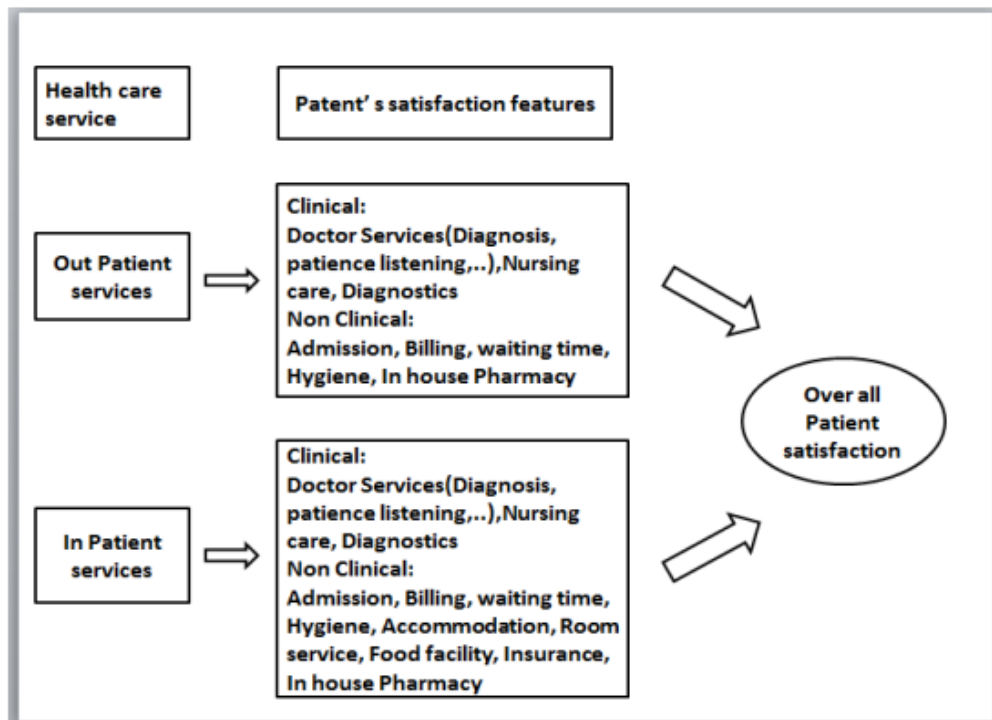
Ekpe EE et al (2015) have opined that Healthcare managers now express patient centered care as a major element in the healthcare operation using patients assessment of the services provided. These surveys are regular under total quality management in developed countries. Periodic patient satisfaction surveys provide feedback to hospital management and staff regarding the quality of services provided. One of their main objective was to investigate patients assessment and satisfaction of services rendered in the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital, Uyo, using the Surgery department as a case study. They have used cross-sectional design and conducted with the surgical patients and accident and emergency (A/E) patients of the University of Uyo teaching hospital. They administered a structured questionnaire and taken 130 surgical patients using systematic random sampling method, out of which 108 completed the questionnaire/interview and were included in the study. They evaluated patients' satisfaction on overall satisfaction, services rendered at accident and emergency unit, Pharmacy, laboratories, blood bank, surgical wards, surgical outpatient department (SOPD), medical records and theatre units of the hospital etc. Conclusion: Finally they found that there is high

patient satisfaction in the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital, health workers need to be more responsive by reducing waiting time for consultation, electricity supply has to be improved and the conveniences must be kept more tidy and comfortable for patients.

**Need for the study:** Patient satisfaction is one of the indispensable factor for health service improvement. To improve the quality of care it is essential to know the factors influencing the patient satisfaction. The quality of care will indicate the quality of service of the hospital as perceived by the patients regarding various factors. India has increasingly developed its health care services in response to patient needs over decades. In India, during the last decade, there was huge numbers of patients' complaints about poor health care delivery services. Key performance indicators are used to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiencies of organizations. In this context, the present study is carried out with reference to multi-specialty hospitals in twin cities to explore the factors influencing patient satisfaction and to identify measures to be undertaken to enhance the level of satisfaction.

**Objectives:** 1. To study the level of satisfaction of patients with respect to facilities and environment in Multispecialty hospitals. 2. To study the satisfaction levels of patients with respect to behaviour of doctors/nursing and supportive staff. 3. To test the satisfaction levels of patients towards doctors in diagnosis of illness. 4. To know Patient's opinion towards cost of treatment. 5. To know whether there exist any relation between two variables like income and perception towards hygiene, age and perception towards Doctor's treatment etc. 6. To find out critical factors that lead to patient Satisfaction.

**Methodology:** The data set used in this study was obtained as first hand data through a self-administered questionnaire during the period of May 2016 to December 2016. Participants were recruited from different departments like cardio, general medicine, surgery, urology, neurology etc. Participation was completely anonymous and voluntary. The participants are informed about the purpose of the study and the given. Out of the total forms 500 sent, only 414 are good in filling which have been used for computations and analysis. The questionnaire consists of questions of both medical and service attributes as well as demographics. Analysis: The conceptual model is based on the fact that patient satisfaction in health care services is influenced by core clinical as well as non-core health delivery systems. It is assumed as a function of the sum of all experiences in relevant service category sets. It can be depicted as follows:



In the analysis part, we have taken some hypotheses for testing and factor analysis is also carried out using SPSS Software. The results are shown below:

Table 1-To test whether Patients are satisfied with the diagnosis of doctors or not, the following are descriptive statistics that we obtained:

#### diagnosis of doctors

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Very Dissatisfactory	13	3.1	3.1	3.1
Dissatisfactory	11	2.7	2.7	5.8
Neutral	73	17.6	17.6	23.4
Satisfactory	266	64.3	64.3	87.7
Very Satisfactory	51	12.3	12.3	100.0
Total	414	100.0	100.0	

From the above table, we can conclude that more than 75% of patients are satisfied with doctor's diagnosis.

Table 2-To test whether Patients are satisfied with the treatment of Doctors or not,the following are descriptive statistics that we obtained

**treatment of doctors**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Very Dissatisfactory	18	4.3	4.3	4.3
Dissatisfactory	18	4.3	4.3	8.7
Neutral	61	14.7	14.7	23.4
Satisfactory	178	43.0	43.0	66.4
Very Satisfactory	139	33.6	33.6	100.0
Total	414	100.0	100.0	

From the above table, we can conclude that more than 65% of patients are satisfied with the treatment of doctor.

**Table 3-To test whether Patients are satisfied with the behaviour of the nursing staff or not,the following are descriptive statistics that we obtained:**

**behaviour of the nurses**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Very Dissatisfactory	5	1.2	1.2	1.2
Dissatisfactory	5	1.2	1.2	2.4
Neutral	69	16.7	16.7	19.1
Satisfactory	319	77.1	77.1	96.1
Very Satisfactory	16	3.9	3.9	100.0
Total	414	100.0	100.0	

From the above table, we can conclude that more than 80% of patients are satisfied with the treatment of nursing staff.

Table 4-To test whether Patients are satisfied with the clinic's environment or not,the following are descriptive statistics that we obtained:

### Clinic Environment(Hygiene)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Very Dissatisfactory	26	6.3	6.3	6.3
Dissatisfactory	83	20.0	20.0	26.3
Neutral	129	31.2	31.2	57.5
Satisfactory	123	29.7	29.7	87.2
Very Satisfactory	53	12.8	12.8	100.0
Total	414	100.0	100.0	

From the above table, we can conclude that only around 50% of patients are satisfied with the clinic's environment.

Table 5-To find the mosy frequently visited departments, the following are descriptive statistics that we obtained:

### specialty of doctor

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Cardiac	177	42.8	42.8	42.8
Cancer	89	21.5	21.5	64.3
kidney	90	21.7	21.7	86.0
Skin disease	17	4.1	4.1	90.1
Eye,Dental,ENT	12	2.9	2.9	93.0
Gynic	12	2.9	2.9	95.9
Liver	9	2.2	2.2	98.1
Other(diabetic,nutritio n..)	8	1.9	1.9	100.0
Total	414	100.0	100.0	

From the above table, we can conclude that morethan 85% of patients are coming for Cardiac,Cancer and Kidney problems and also observed that some of the patients are suffering with both cardiac and kidney problems.Further study has to be made to know the associationof these two diseases.

Table 7-To find whether patients are willing to come again or not for further cure, the following are descriptive statistics that we obtained:

**willingness to visit again**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	299	72.2	72.2	72.2
No	115	27.8	27.8	100.0
Total	414	100.0	100.0	

- From the above table, we can conclude that morethan 70% of patients prefer to visit again for further treatment or any kind of illness arises in future .

Table 8: To test whether people of different income groups are been equally taken in to sample or not, we use chi-square test as follows:

we consider Null Hypothesis: H0 : All income groups of people are been equally taken in to sample. The necessary calculations are

**Income**

	Observed N	Expected N	Residual
below 25,000	74	82.8	-8.8
25,000-50,000	100	82.8	17.2
50,000-75,000	88	82.8	5.2
75,000-1,00,000	73	82.8	-9.8
1,00,000-1,25,000	79	82.8	-3.8
Total	414		

**Test Statistics**

	Income
Chi-Square	6.169 <sup>a</sup>
df	4
Asymp. Sig.	.187

- As significant value (.187) is greater than 0.05, we accept Null Hypothesis and conclude that people with all income levels are equally included in the sample.

Table 9: To find the important components that lead to patients' satisfaction, applied Factor Analysis and presented key results:



### KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.688
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	440.800
	df	55
	Sig.	.000

As KMO is greater than 0.5, Factor analysis can be used

Bartlett's Test of Sphericity p value is 0.000 which is less than 0.05, we can reject the null hypothesis that the correlation matrix is insignificant.

### Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Good Inpatient facility	388	2.00	7.00	4.5638	1.12810
Procedures and treatment	388	1.25	6.75	4.0198	1.17950
Multi facilities	388	2.33	7.33	4.5683	1.13045
Valid N (listwise)	388				

- From the above table, we conclude that Multi facilities is the main factor, Good Inpatient facility is next best and Procedures and treatment stands next to them

**Conclusion:** Patients play an important role in the health care quality measure. Various demographical and other characteristics such as age, income levels and different treatment experience would have different effects on patient satisfaction. This study revealed that major determinants for patient satisfaction in multi-speciality hospitals are Doctor's diagnosis, Nursing staff kindness, procedures. Insurance is also one of the main factors to prefer multi-speciality hospitals. Clinic environment has to be improved. Further research can be done to understand each and every patient expectation and strive to make the patients happy by optimizing the services for every patient every time.

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