

## PREFACE

Today India has emerged as a leader in the health care delivery system. It has made a great achievement in the field of health care. Over a period of 50 years life expectancy has increased from 37.17 years in 1951 to 62.80 years in 1996- in respect of men 64.2 and in respect women 61.2.

Good health is a pre-condition for good life. "Healthy mind in a healthy body" has always been a first and foremost aim of the great civilizations. This is also true of Vedic, Buddhist and other Philosophical Systems of India. To maintain good health good hospitals are essential. In India and in almost all countries of the world hospitals are health care delivery systems.

They meet the needs of the patients by providing services of investigations, medical and surgical therapies and other subsequent treatments unless the patients fully recover from their illness. In this regard the Government has bent to take care of primary health of the masses. In addition, the private and voluntary health institutions also rendered yeoman services in this field of health care. Majority of the private health institutions are profit based. However, the number of not for profit based health institutions are not less. They provide all basic investigations, treatment and supply <sup>of</sup> drugs, ~~of~~ medicine free of cost to the patients.

Thus the study of such institutions that provide free services to the masses, in particularly in the rural and semi-urban areas is a need of hour. Such institutions face great difficulty in providing medical services for the reasons like the remoteness of area, reluctance on the part of the patients to accept the treatment due to poverty and ignorance, to some extent carelessness due to superstitions, paucity of funds, etc. there may be many other reasons as well,

however, in spite of all primary hurdles some of the voluntary health institutions providing very good health services to the people of their respective areas. Such institutions on par with the profit-making institutions providing parallel services, including educating the masses with regards to maintaining good health.

The society has now accepted the hospitals as a health care institutions and utilizing them more frequently for ailment. In present day the demand of health services is ever increasing. Due to poverty the poor masses fail to get proper medical care. The expensive innovative diagnostic methods, therapeutic techniques and costly hospitalization became unaffordable. In this situation the voluntary organizations provided the satisfactory services to poor people and save their life.

Thus the study of such health institutions is essential to know their system of services, experiences and outcomes, so that their contribution may serve as a forerunner in his field of health care. Against this background an attempt is made to study the contribution as a whole of the Karnataka Health Institution of Ghatprabha, Gokak of the Belgaum district.

Hospital is a unique and highly complex entity. To the community, it is an important social and economic asset; to patients, it is a place to receive care; to physicians, it is a place to treat patients; to the employees, it is a place to work; and to managers, it is a multifaceted organization embracing clinical, financial, ancillary and support activities. It is a place where sophisticated equipments, technology and personnel are organized to provide health services.

In this context it is noteworthy that governments are determined to take care of primary health of the people. In addition to this, many private and voluntary health institutions are also rendering invaluable services in the field of medical care. But most of the private health institutions are profit making institutions. And the number of non-profit making institutions is quite small which provide basic investigation, treatment and supply drugs free of cost to the patients. So the need to study the role of such institutions providing free medical services to the poor masses in rural and semi urban areas is the need of the hour facing innumerable problems from patients. Today the demand for health services is increasing due to poverty of the masses who are unable to get proper medical care. The expensive innovative, diagnostic methods have become unaffordable. So the study of such health institutions is essential to know their system of services expectancy and outcomes. Therefore, the contribution may serve as a forerunner in the field of health care. Against this background an attempt is made in this dissertation to study the contribution of the Karnataka Health Institute, Ghataprabha of Gokak taluka in Belgaum district.

Realizing the <sup>increasing</sup> ~~rising~~ importance and significance of the health for all particularly to the rural poor backward, this researcher has selected the theme on health with special reference to Karnataka Health Institute founded in 1924 and located at Ghataprabha in Gokak taluka of Belgaum district. Added significance of the selection of this theme is that the researcher belongs to this region. This poor family like many other similar families from this region has been benefited immensely by the medical facilities provided by this institution right from his grand father from whom he learned that, there was no such facility in this area before the establishment of this institution. And if he and

some of the other family members could overcome serious illness it was only because of free medical treatment made available at this institution.

Therefore out of love and sense of appreciation of gigantic work being done by the institution this researcher has tried to focus attention of the like-minded. Its activities <sup>are like</sup> with the following broad activities

**Object of the study:**

Healthy citizens is the backbone of any society and  $\therefore$  quantitative healthcare institutions fully equipped and adequate in number is the yardstick to measure the status of any society state or nation to say the list. State of health and the number of health care services are reflection of prevailing social customs and political conditions. The selection of the present topic is done with the following objects.

1. To study the historical and general background of the Ghataprabha region.
2. To know the foundation of the Karnataka Health Institution.
3. To understand the physical setup and service expansion of the institution.
4. To study the techniques, equipments and machinery used in the institution.
5. To know the results of the health services rendered by the institution.
6. To study and analyse administrative aspects of the institution and
7. To make suitable suggestions for further improvement in the health services.

This is the first attempt of researcher to work on ~~an~~ this institute, ~~on~~ which unfortunately of this work, there is hardly any independent published work except few minor works such as 'Vatsala' by Indumati Kelkar, Dhanavantri by Dr. R.G. Kokatnur, "Tooth Ache: No Joke" by Dr. (Mrs.) S.A. Bhagwat, G.I. Kallur:Karnataka Arogya Sanstheyelli Labhyaviruva Samajik Seva Karyagalu, Ghatprabha a study. Articles such as visitors book.

As such the dissertation is made of the five chapters.

- 1) Prologue
- 2) Foundation and Expansion of Karnataka Health Institute
- 3) Modernization of KHI and Service Rendered
- 4) Administration and Financial Aspects
- 5) Epilogue

This researcher is highly indebted to Dr. Kiran Vaidya Chief Medical Officer, Ghanashyam Vaidya, Alka Vaidya and their family who extended all sorts of help needed by the researcher in the conduct of this research co-operation and help to this researcher. Thus the family members spared their valuable times in making available to the researcher whatever information they possessed or procured.

#### **Sources used and Research Methodology:**

Throughout this research work it is strictly adhered to the historical method and observed internal and external criticism. Then use of imaginative faculty is also made wherever necessary to link up the instances and historical events. The strict objectivity is also observed in this study.

The source of the study includes the original and secondary sources, administrative reports of the institution. For a most of the secondary sources

are adequately utilized by the researcher thus said researcher to a large extent is based on original sources such as the report of KHI which are available right from year 1935 route extremely useful in developing the chapters on expansion, administration, finance of the institute.

Correspondence files made by the institutions for various years and other registers also provides valuable data on some aspects of research. In order get the feel of working of the institution the researcher collected valuable information and data which otherwise not available in the source mentioned above through questionnaires, personal interviews conducted with doctors and patients.

The researcher interviewed about 100 patients in order to record their responses, their income, their economic, social educational status etc. One of the objectives of this research was to analyze caste wise trend reflected through this research however in the light of inadequate information due to reluctant on the part of the patient to provide such information this aim was not fulfilled.

It is irony of it is that this researcher heavily intended to work upon suffering seriously bodily while carrying out this research. At the last stage he developed cataract in his eye which needs to be operated upon it adversely affected his work though he wanted to postpone it till the submission of dissertation. Under the circumstances his brother and family helped him in his delicate days.