

CHAPTER I

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Nursing binds human society with a bond of care and affection. Nursing is a calling to care, which offers an oasis of poignant stories and pool of challenges. The scope of nursing practice has expanded and extended to different settings other than hospital only. Nurses deal with the most precious thing in this wide world-the human life.¹ Nurses are often the linchpin component across a wide continuum of care. A nurse's professional skills and training contribute significantly to successful patient outcomes in a variety of care settings--from acute and tertiary care to prevention and wellness programs. Their smiling face and compassionate touch and care provides great satisfaction to the patient.

Despite of urbanization and globalization in India, the healthcare system in the country continues to face formidable changes. The healthcare system has become increasingly detached from the curative aspect and more focusing on the satisfaction of material needs and enlarging the profit-earning aspects. This has led to unaffordability of the curative care to many common people due to the present framework of the healthcare system in the country. Subsequently the healthcare system is being plagued with various problems. The solution is to delve deeper into the roots of the problems and explore possible solutions to curb them.

Nurses play an integral role in the healthcare industry, providing care to the patients and carrying out leadership roles in hospitals, health systems and other organizations. Although nursing profession can be very rewarding but it is equally challenging and it entails a huge level of dedication and commitment. Nurses needs to be focused on not only the patient needs but also on the management of system of care. This often creates unfortunate hassles irrespective of how hard the nurse's works towards patient care. They are coordinators and custodians of patient care. This entails lot of managerial skills where they need to possess apart from technical skills.

Reduced workforce and lack of quality care leads to overburdened workforce

which further leads to higher morbidity and mortality. The importance of nurses in healthcare should be underlined for attempting to create a better task force for better quality care for all.

Healthcare in India features a universal health care system run by the constituent states and territories of India. The constitution charges every state with "raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties". The National health policy was endorsed by the parliament of India in 1983 and update in 2002.

In between the 1950's and 1980's the health care facilities and personnel increased substantially, but gradually due to the fast population growth, the number of licensed medical practitioners per 10,000 individuals had fallen in the 1980's to 3 per 10000 from the 1981 1,000. There were approximately ten hospital beds per 10,000 individuals in 1991. Primary health centers are majorly the cornerstone of the rural health care system.

In the year 1991, India constituted about 22,400 primary health centers, 11200 hospitals and 27400 dispensaries. Such facilities were the part of a tiered health care system with funnels more difficult cases into urban hospitals while attempting to provide routine medical care vast majority in the countryside. Primary health centers and sub-centers would majorly rely on trained paramedics to meet most of their needs.

Indian healthcare industry operates in both of the private and public sectors. The public sectors are health care system consists of facilities run by the central and state facilities are provided freely or at subsidized rates to lower income families in rural and urban areas. However, further the Indian health care industry is going through a growth phase due to its healthy economy. As the country's middle class continues to grow this industry's growth will increase. India's ever-growing middle class are able to afford quality such an increased ability to pay for better healthcare, the demand for healthcare service has grown from \$4.8 billion in 1991 to \$22.8 billion in 2001-2002. Today 50 million Indian are able to afford western medicine and over 150 million have annual incomes of more than 1000 US Dollars.

Indian health care industry growth story is moving ahead neck to neck with the pharmaceutical industry and the software industry of the nation. There has been much done in the health care sector for bringing the improvement like till date,

approximately 12% of the scope offered by the industry has been tapped. In the year to come the healthcare industry in India is reckoned to be the engine of the Indian economy. Today the health care industry in India is worth \$17 billion and there are anticipation & expectation of it to grow by 13% every year. The health care sector consists of healthcare instruments. Health care in the retail market, hospitals enrolled to the hospital networks etc.

Indian healthcare Industries include systems like Ayurveda and homeopathy which are increasingly gaining prominence overseas. Another major area for investment in India is the research industry of the Health Care. In India there is a tremendous prospect with a huge talent pool and the rise of biotechnology and bioinformatics. India is a rising and expanding destination for medical tourism. With affordable medical expenses and a sound technology in place goes good with the growing sector which would be bode well for the healthcare industry in India.

The healthcare sector is one of the most challenging and fastest growing sectors in India. Revenues from the healthcare sector account for 5.2 per cent of the GDP, making it the third largest growth segment in India.