

EVOLUTION AND GROWTH OF HEALTHCARE FACILITIES IN ANCIENT INDIA SINCE VEDIC PERIOD

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1. ABSTRACT:

The aim of this study is to look into the healthcare facilities that existed with respect to healthcare system in Ancient India and its evolution and growth. To trace out the existence and growth of healthcare facilities with respect to healthcare system that is prevalent in Ancient India more so in Pre Vedic, Vedic and subsequently.

If we go through the voluminous records of Ancient India in particular Pre-Vedic, Vedic and Post-Vedic regarding health and healthcare facilities one can find a lot of literature on history of healthcare facilities and the other healing therapies that are often referred to by the contemporary physicians and surgeons. This clearly shows that abundant historical evidence regarding the existence of healthcare facilities (hospitals) in ancient India are not properly documented because of authenticated and proven information. Another important aspect being there are different hypothesis by different scholars who made research work on the existence of healthcare facilities in Ancient India but the object of existence of healthcare facilities in form or other are proved beyond doubt, though there are different opinions about the subject matter. This is evident from the four Vedas especially Rigveda and Yajurveda that contains over flowing information regarding healthcare and healthcare facilities when the best has not opened their eyes.

When we go through the epistemology of word Hospital we can say *“Epitamology is nothing but to study the history of words and in that context if we observe the word hospital the journey started from Latin as Hospess and modified to Hospitalis, Hospitale and finally to Hospital”*. Evidence of historic caves that are used as “Cave Hospitals” and temples nearby streams and rivers also used as healthcare facilities are the testimony of the existence of healthcare facilities in Ancient India.

Subsequently during Buddhist period mainly when Lord Gautam Buddha ruled the country and the great warrior Ashoka, King Kanishka, Chola and Pallava Dynasty have shown ample evidence of the existence of healthcare facilities. The then historical University by name Takshasila where thousands of people are studied in different branches including Medicine and students from the other parts of the Globe used to throng to acquire knowledge in medicine, healthcare and healthcare facilities.

The ancient history of healthcare facilities (hospitals) (approximate 6500 B.C. to 650) A.D is not adequately researched due to the fact, the dearth of appropriate information and lack of coherence among historians who dwelt the subject. The healthcare facilities that flourished in Ancient India can be classified as Ancient period, Vedic Period, Buddhist Period, Medieval Period, Pallavan and Chola Period etc.

The invaluable inscriptions on Temples that are built in thousands of years ago are testimony of the existence of healthcare facilities though not in the present form but in a smaller way. It is not surprise to note that the temples that are built nearby springs and rivers with medicinal qualities are used like incubation for the sick to get cured. This kind of using Temples as incubation are nothing but the present form of ICUs because the environment in the Temple not only cures the patient but also the patient is get relieved from the stress, strain and in addition enlightenment in the life.

During the Vedic period the eminent Vaidyars who are efficient both in medicine and surgery like Acharya Charaka and Acharya Sushruta have documented not only the medicines, procedures and also the facilities (hospitals) that are designed, built under their supervision.

To conclude one can say with authority that Ancient India has developed, maintained and used the healthcare facilities not only to the general diseases but also chronic diseases and they used to perform especially during the period of Acharya Sushruta who used to do procedures including brain and heart. However, there needs to be a lot of work to be done in bringing out many facts with respect to healthcare facilities that are hidden in the Ancient Scriptures, inscriptions on the Ancient Temples and such other documentations that are available so that much light can be thrown on the exact existence of healthcare facilities in Ancient India.

Key words: Ancient period, Vedic Period, Buddhist Period, Medieval Period, Pallavan and Chola Period

2. AIM: The aim of this study is to look into the healthcare facilities that existed with respect to healthcare system in Ancient India and its evolution and growth.

3. OBJECTIVE: To trace out the existence and growth of healthcare facilities with respect to healthcare system that is prevalent in Ancient India more so in Pre Vedic, Vedic and subsequently.

4. INTRODUCTION:

If we look at the voluminous records of the Ancient India pertaining to health and healthcare facilities one can find a lot of literature on history of healthcare facilities and the other *healing therapies* that are often referred to by the contemporary physicians and surgeons.

However, a detailed historical evidence regarding existence of healthcare facilities (hospitals) in India during Pre Vedic, Vedic and subsequently are not properly documented because there is no authenticated and proven information either in the form of Primary Data or in the Secondary Data because different versions have been brought out by different authors/scholars based on the analysis they gave on their findings; In addition different hypothesis have been brought out by historians who carved a niche in the subject because of their analysis and notions. The other factor is, in India leave alone the other parts of the Globe there are different ways of treating the people for ailments/diseases. In India, the history of medicine namely medical knowledge and surgery dates back to Vedic period, and the information can be traced out from Atharvana Veda and Yajur Veda where one can find the elaborate information regarding healing methods. However, the ancient history of healthcare facilities can be traced out approximately 6500 BC to 650 AD.

When one can look into the Etymology of hospitals (healthcare facilities),

ETIMOLOGY OF THE WORD HOSPITAL:

Etymology is nothing but to study the history of the words and in that context “if we observe the word hospital the journey started from Latin as Hospess and was modified to Hospitalis, Hospitale and finally to hospital. The latin word of Hospess means ‘a stranger, foreigner or a guest’ and the noun form derived from this word is Hospetium which means Hospitality. Hospess is also the root for few English Words such as host, hospitality, Hospice, Hostel and Hotel. These words are related partially by their function and there are similarities in the words used for Hospital in different languages. The german word is spital, the French use Hopital and in Irish it is called Hospideal and in Hindi and Urdu it is called Hospitaal or Aspitaal and in Turkish it is Hostane and Kolish it is Szpital.

one can find,

“Neolithic Cave Hospitals ancient Indian Ayurvedic Medical Schools at the famous Takshasila (one of the best universities having thousands of books and Acharyas in Hundreds in Students in Thousands coming from various parts of the Globe to acquire and enlarge their knowledge including medicine)”.

While going through the pre historic caves that are used as *cave hospitals* where the patients are treated for their ailments/diseases. In fact the disease must be as old as the human race itself. The power of self awareness is endowed to the Homosapeans to take care of themselves and their loved ones if they are not well.

The ancient history reveals that the Hospitals existed in one form or other where-in surgical procedures and procedures of the deceased took place.

Subsequently, emerged during Buddhist Period Monastic Hospitals in Srilanka, Mesopotimian House of life and healing, Tibet’s Palace Hospitals, Greek Temple Hospitals, Asciepeions, Roman Military Hospitals, Valitediniria, Medcity, Dasilias and Bimaristans of Gondeshapur and so on. There is a saying that,

“whoever wishes to forsee the future must consult the past.” by Machiavelli.

From the ancient Indian Healthcare Facility’s Literature it can be noticed that the Healthcare facilities are in existence though not in the present form but in crude form.

It is believed that in Ancient India Ayurvedic Schools prevailed because Ayurveda is practiced in Ancient India to treat the people suffering from diseases/ailments. **Archaeological evidence from many parts during Indus Valley Escavation.** The Evidence of healthcare facilities are available.

However, the ancient history of healthcare facilities (hospitals) approximate (6500 B.C. to 650 AD) is not adequately researched due to the fact, the dearth of Primary Data, Unreliable secondary data and numerous hypothesis by eminent scholars one cannot decide the exact nature of healthcare facility and its origin in ancient India. The meaning of a healthcare facility is a place where in “***for receiving medical or surgical care***”.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW:

A review of the available material on historical development of healthcare in Ancient India including evolution of healthcare facilities, it is observed that healthcare facilities have existed in ancient India. During the time of Buddha, i.e. around 6th Century B.C. there were number of healthcare facilities to look after the handicapped and the poor. King Ashoka the great warrior and administrator (273-232 BC) has built many healthcare facilities in the kingdom. This is being authenticated from the writings of Arabian and European Travellers around AD 600 shows that the study of medicine in India was at its peak. The enthusiasm and zeal of the native Vaidyars in those days, have mastered the art of identifying the medicinal plants and use them to the needy thereby improving the health conditions of the people. It is nothing but an healthcare facility with one to one or one to many there is no historical evidence to show that there are healthcare facilities as we see today but there existed facilities with all the necessary amenities to look after the needy by the Vaidyars and their disciples.

The following are classification of healthcare and healthcare facilities in ancient India right from Pre Vedic period.

a. Ancient Period

Fa-hien (CE 405-411), a Chinese traveller who visited India during the times of Candragupta, provides us details about the charitable dispensaries in Pataliputra. According to Fa-hien the nobles and householders of this country founded hospitals within the city to which the destitute of all countries, the poor, the crippled and the diseased may come. Here, these people were treated freely and provided with every kind of help. After inspecting their diseases the physicians treated them with all their efforts and when cured, they depart at their convenience.

Hiuen Tsang (CE 629-645), another Chinese traveller contemporary to the emperor Harsha, also provides a description about the hospitals of that time. According to him in all the highways of the towns and the villages throughout India there were ‘hospices’ (punya-salas). These hospices were provided with food and drink as well as physicians with medicines that provide medical facilities to the travellers and poor people. These institutions that helped the poor and the needy people were also known by several other names such as punyasthanas, punasalas, dharmasalas, viharas and maths. These were the Indian counterparts of the western almshouses, monasteries and infirmaries of those times.

b. Vedic period:

In this period the chief source of Vaidya Chikitsa (medical procedures) is derived from the four Vedas namely Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajur Veda and Atharvana Veda. Out of all the four Vedas that are rich in knowledge in different branches including health and healthcare, Atharvana Veda with full of hymns and prayers indicating the ways and means of protecting the people from diseases/ailments including natural disasters and epidemics. A look at the Yajur Veda clearly shows the intention is that the World should be free from diseases and should have healthy mind.

At this time one of the forms of Healthcare namely Ayurveda called Upaveda was developed (Ayush means life, Veda means knowledge) to treat the people suffering from illnesses/diseases. The main aim of the Ayurveda is to prolong the life of anybody by using traditional medicines based on Ayurveda and Charaka, a Court Vaidya (physician) of King Kanishka developed the same by installing many healthcare facilities. The Hindus believed, Dhanvantari, the pattern of God of Indian Medicine also initiated many healing methods for which, established healthcare facilities and subsequently Sushruta took charge of them; who is believed to be a leading surgeon who himself developed instruments, designed them and used them for treating the people (Surgery).

c. Buddhist period:

According to the historians, during 563-477 BC the then King Lord Buddha who used to travel extensively and having special interest in health and healthcare facilities of the poor and needy, created / developed Buddhist Viharas (Monasteries) in different places; and in all these Viharas, care of the sick and healthcare education (Vaidya Chikitsa) that are incorporated can be treated as nothing less than healthcare facilities in a crude form.

d. Medieval Period:

To look into the medieval period in ancient India where the healthcare facilities are flourishing throughout the country under the aegis of those rulers. It is not uncommon to notice the role of Arab World playing in learning Indian Science and also in disseminating it to the west. This clearly shows that the in-depth of knowledge of Vaidyars about the biological material that is available, a God's Gift to the mankind in curing many a chronic diseases for which there is no answer in the sophisticated technological development in medicine of today. To mention a few names of the Indian medicines like Kafur (Karpura) and Ud (Agaru) etc. occur even in the holy quran and prophets traditions. It is also astonishing to observe the Arabic words like Funiz, Tutia, Narjil, Bish and Sandal have probably been derived from Sanskrit Language. This observations were made by Mr. Varma

1992 in his detailed article "*Indo Arab relations in Medical Sciences*", gave several documented instances of such contacts. This may be due to the fact that several Indian tribes like Jhats had settled down in Arabia even before the beginning of Islam and they were well versed in different branches of Ancient Indian Traditional Medicines and one such tribe who practiced in Tantric Medicine using their clinical proficiency to cure the patients. It is also observed that the beloved wife of the Prophets was cured by an Indian Jhat physician of Medina. It is also recorded that Harith Bin Kalda, the trusted Hakeem of the Prophet studied in the medical school of Jundishapur (in Khuzistan), in South West Iran where Indian Vaidyars and Philosophers also taught sciences including medicine. Haritha, the trusted Hakeem of the Prophet travelled through India in search of more information regarding different branches of Indian medicines before coming back.

It is also brought to the notice by several historians that Indian physician by name Birzantin Hindi had migrated to Yemen and settle there supposed to be during the period of Anusherwan's reign (530-580CE).

During medieval period namely (Post Buddha and Muslim period), the great emperor Asoka is instrumental in establishing many healthcare facilities throughout the Kingdom of which major parts are in India.

Subsequently the Muslims invaded from 10th Century onwards, Vaidyars (Physicians) from the middle east who are well versed and trained in the Unani System prevailing in those days in middle east, encouraged by King Asoka amalgamated Unani and Ayurveda systems. This blend of Vaidya Chikitsa brought out new methods, new facilities to treat the needy. In addition, translation of medical tests and information from Arabic into Persian and later into Urdu.

e. Pallava and Chola period:

There are some epigraphical records authoritatively show that the existence of healthcare facilities in the Deccan during Pallava period between CE574 & 879, and during Chola period it reveals that some allowances are given to the Vaidyars (physicians), existence of healthcare facilities and also Urban healthcare facilities. When thoroughly examined though the epigraphical records show that words like Atulasali or Vaidyasali were used for dispensaries and hospitals and it is also observed that the words like Atula or Vaidya were used for medicines. In these two periods one can observe that there are large number of Vaidyasalas which is nothing but the present form of dispensaries in the Villages and that are being maintained by a local Vaidyar. Physician who are naturally inherited the system as a hereditary. If such system is broken/not available the king or the ruler of that area or some religious institutions or local authorities use to appoint this type of Vaidyas to look after the health and healthcare facilities in that region.

f. Christianity and Medical Care:

After the invasion of British and by throwing out majority of Muslim Rulers in India, healthcare facilities have become integral part of Monasteries and Churches built by them. In this, healthcare an integral part of religion and all machineries like Nuns, Monks are trained to take care of the sick.

During the period 1100-1300 as many as 19,000 healthcare facilities were founded in Europe to cater to those suffering from war injuries and diseases.

The evolution of healthcare facilities from Pre Vedic period especially in Ancient India was documented by number of travelers like Fa-hein (CE405-411), a Chinese traveler who visited India during the time of Chandragupta, the king, and Hiuen Tsang (CE 629-645), another Chinese traveler contemporary to the emperor Harsha.

The Epigraphical Records that are available clearly shows the existence of healthcare facilities (dispensaries) in the Deccan during the Pallava period between CE 574 & 879. When we go through the Epigraphical Records of Chola period there is proof that, there existed healthcare facilities and Vaidyars who were paid allowances for their services and in addition Village Healthcare Facilities (dispensaries) and Town Healthcare facilities are also existed. These things can be identified from Epigraphical Records of Chola period like "*Atulasalai and Vaidyasalai*" that depicts the present form of dispensaries. It is also observed that there are number of healthcare facilities in the Villages that are being manned by local Vaidyars who acquired the positions in hereditary nature. However sometimes, the King/Queen or the local Religious Institutional Heads are used to appoint these Vaidyars to attend the sick. Not only Epigraphical Records but also the inscriptions that are available on the Temples built in those days are the testimony of the existence of healthcare facilities manned by Vaidyars to attend the needy and the sick.

If one should look back into the history of Ancient India right from Pre Vedic period it is observed that there are systematic healthcare facilities prevailing in the entire country, in one form or other depending upon the cultural, environmental and habits of that particular area. In addition, when you look back into the Ancient India the healthcare system is deep rooted from the remote villages to the Urban areas and mostly the Vaidyars (Healthcare Professionals) who developed the knowledge and experience since generations and are accustomed to provide Healthcare to the needy in and around their places. They have such a thorough knowledge of the available roots, plants, leaves, barks of many medicinal plants which they are able to identify, shows their ability to cure number of diseases ranging from Ordinary fever and cough to chronic diseases. The people who are suffering to the ailments/diseases/discomforts used to go to the Vaidyars and it is almost one to one meeting and the Vaidyar used to give not only the medicine but also the food in the environment in which the patient has to live etc. This system of one to one has changed with

the passage of time and became a Guru Shishya Parampara meaning the healthcare is being transformed to guru to Shishya and the disciples of Guru, used to treat the patients under the guidance of guru so as to acquire not only the knowledge, experience and expertise. These Shishyas used to shift their areas to far more places and thus the healthcare facilities have come into existence from guru shishya too and the disciples of the guru shifting to other places to spread the knowledge, experience and expertise. When we trace out the Vedas one can find the Goddess Aswini is the Principle deity of healthcare and from the deity the knowledge was transferred to Rishis and from there to Shishyas. So, this kind of healthcare facility where it is available only in the house of Vaidyars has changed to a place called healthcare facility in every village where the Vaidyar used to stay and the patient is to go and meet them to satisfy the want needs.

A well known historian by name OP Jaggi, who is an authority on medicinal science mentioned in a recent article,

“THE STATE OF INDIAN HOSPITALS DURING THE ANCIENT INDIA AND MEDIEVAL PERIODS MENTIONS THAT INDIA ALL THROUGH ITS HISTORY FUNCTIONED AS A WELFARE STATE AND PROVIDED WELL ORGANIZED HEALTH FACILITIES TO THE DESTITUTES AND THE POOR”.

A recent study by some historians who found some inscriptions on the temples of the chola period gave a detailed account regarding the description of the Vaidyasalas (discrepsanries) and even a medical school and a hostel for the students. This description on that temples of that cholas period clearly shows that there is a well planned healthcare facility system manned by authorized and experienced Vaidyars (physicians) to look after the health of the local people because those people used to give priority to the people's health.

In this context, it is appropriate to mention the present notion,

“An Healthy nation is a wealthy nation”.

Perhaps taken a queue from the Ancient people

These temple inscriptions pray clearly shows that they are not inscriptions but commandments of the rulers about health and healthcare. A ruler by name Veera Rajendra Deva of the Chola dynasty in C.E. 1067 who gave commandments on health and healthcare can be observed on the walls of the inner sanctuary of the temple of Venkateswar at Tirumakudal in Changelput District.

It is also observed that from those inscriptions there were 15 beds in the healthcare facility for the treatment (chikitsa) of the members of the temple, the students and the teachers of the medical school. This healthcare facility was administered by Kodani Rameal Wathan Bhattar (Physician) who was paid 90 kalam of Paddy per year and there was also a surgeon in the healthcare facility (CALLYAKKIRIVAI Pannuvan) and who was paid 30 kalam of paddy per year. These healthcare facilities few more people are appointed to assist the physicians and surgeons to fetch medicinal herbs for preparation of medicines and some people to attend the patients in administering the medicines and also look after them to meet their needs. This system of Chikitsa in Ancient India may be the foundation and spirit to become a modern healthcare facility which the present generation are enjoying and it also observed that from the descriptions the persons who fetched medicinal herbs were paid 6 kalams of paddy and who kasu while the attendants were paid 30 kalam of paddy and one kasu.

Another such inscription that was brought to the notice by the historians which dates back to CE 1226, found on a stone pillar of Malkapur in Andhra regarding medical and healthcare facilities. When Kakatiya dynasty particularly Rudramadevi and her father Ganapati who ruled these areas during those periods donated several villages that are existed south of River Krishna Vishweshwara. The income derived from these villages was divided into three parts and of which one part was utilized for a maternity home and one part to healthcare facility and the remaining third part for a school. In those days the prosperous and rich princess and kings who gave priority to health of the people built various healthcare facilities and supported those facilities and used to feel that such kind of fact pious and philanthropic. The present notion of “*Manava Seva Madhava Seva*” for which the root goes back to ancient india.

5. DISCUSSIONS:

A reading of the history of healthcare facilities in Ancient India in Pre-Vedic period, Vedic period and subsequently throws a light on the development of healthcare facilities though not in the present form but in a form that existed in the environment suitable at that times. A universal look at the history of hospitals one can find the healthcare facility started their existence in antiquity with the raise of healthcare facilities in Greece, the Roman Empire and on the Indian Sub Continent mainly in India as well.

The ancient history reveals the Asclepian Temples in Ancient Greece, the military hospitals in Ancient Rome and healing places that were found in Indian Temples because the health is a combination of religious beliefs, prayers and according to the Hymns from Vedas mainly Rigveda and Yajurveds which contains lots of information about the human sufferings but linked with religious feelings and to certain extent the sufferings are attended not only with medicines but also with the prayers to appease the concerned Gods and Goddesses. Because of their religious beliefs, rich culture, heritage and their feelings in those days that the sufferings of the people are due to anger of the Gods/Goddesses to the humans.

Only in the Christian era there is a massive development of healthcare facilities around the Globe including India. However, in this article our discussions and observations are confined only to India in particular Ancient India i.e. Pre Vedic Period, Vedic Period and subsequently.

The invaluable inscriptions on the temples are testimony of the existence of healthcare facilities though not in the present form but in a smaller way, like the Acharyas/Vaidyars in those days are making their houses as small Healthcare facilities and they used to keep the patient in their houses for observation and continuity of procedure for chronic diseases. During the period of Acharya Sushruta and Charaka who are the founding fathers of medicine and surgery have themselves developed not only the medicines but also surgical instruments with the help of Vedic information that is embaded in the Vedas especially Rigveda and Yajurveda.

There is some evidence that there are certain kinds of healthcare facilities towards the end of the second millennium B.C. in ancient Mesopotamia. A look at the Indian Scenario one can find the monastic system created by the Buddhist religion under the pattern of Lord Buddha, the then king who became a monk transferred once the healthcare system confined to Vaidyars and patient and it became an institutional healthcare facility.

Perhaps this may be the origin of institutionalization of healthcare facilities. This institutionalization of healthcare facilities in India dates back as early as the 5th century B.C. and to the spread of Buddhism to the east, nursing facilities, the nature and function of which are not known to us also appeared in Srilanka which is part of Ancient India.

One can trace out the healthcare facilities and their existence in Ancient India with the birth of 'rational medicine' in the 4th century B.C. by the Hippocratic doctors who migrated from Persia to India used to visit house calls and the Temples that flourished in Ancient India are the places where community healthcare is used to take place.

The main object of healthcare and healthcare facilities in Ancient India is their belief in the Ancient Scripts, religious feelings, God fearing and used to depend on Ancient Scriptures that contains abundant material on health, healthcare etc (four Vedas in particular Rigveda and Yajurveda) are the testimony. Also in some places the temples and the natural springs and the river beds and the temple surrounding them are like Incubation for the sick to get cured. It is the belief and practice in those days that the springs and rivers are rich in medicinal qualities and those Temples nearby are the places like our modern ICUs and if anybody who spends a fortnight in the Temples and taking bath in the streams they used to get relieved from their chronic diseases.

Especially during the Buddhist period when Buddhism is at its peak during sixth century B.C. India started the creation of monastic system and subsequently this monastic system, with the entry of Christianity gave rise to institutionalized healthcare facilities in India that appears to be in the present form. As already mentioned above the people suffering with ailment/disease normally used to enter the Temples which are specifically built in and around rivers and streams, and for incubation sleep under the supervision and observation of the Temple Priest and local Vaidyars. This serves two purposes

1. to cure the diseases of the suffering in addition to purify their souls and mind from the evil thoughts that generates spiritual energy to overcome the diseases.

The history reveals that,

“How a patient spent considerable time in the home of an Asciplian Temple Warden, and how the consultation with a physician he was given a Therapeutic Medicament after his dreams had been interpreted (Orations 48.35-24, 46-49)”

Therapy was mainly a Majicomystic (Things that are mystical are magical or mysterious, possibly having to do with the supernatural or the occult) nature and completely alien to the co-existing Hypocratic Medicine which was based on contemporary scientific knowledge and abhorred the Occult in Medicine.

6. CONCLUSION:

Unlike other parts of the Globe in India where religion and religious feelings are predominant and faith and belief is the order of the day, the healthcare and healthcare facilities are interwoven with healthcare and healthcare facilities, perhaps that is the main emphasis in those days that some Temples are dedicated as healthcare facilities to cure the patients.

It is a well known fact that health and illness started with the existence of humans on earth. As the time progresses some people who are more talented than others started observing the ailments/diseases/sufferings of the people and the symptoms and with the help of their knowledge started analyzing the origin and spread of diseases and how to overcome them. This is the turning point where this few groups are able to identify the cause of the ailments/sufferings especially the Brahmin Community who are well-versed with the religious books. In Vedic Period, these observations by the group of intellect have found the ways and means to overcome these sufferings of the people and thus the origin of Ayurveda also called as Upaveda has come into existence. In Ancient India, in addition to this development the local tribes who used to live in dense forests, identified the roots and medicinal plants and leaves that are capable of removing the ailments/sufferings.

All these things have come to light with the excavations of Harappa and Mohanjadaro and throws light on the Indus Valley Civilization which has given importance to health and healthcare in addition to other things. To conclude one can have evidential material that gathered by the great historians from the Ancient Scriptures and Temple Inscriptions, the Ancient Indians not only developed their healthcare system but also developed healthcare facilities to serve the community at large and also to contain the epidemics that are common in those days.

Though it is not appropriate to mention, as this becomes out of contest, I could say that ***Sushruta who wrote Sushruta Samhita*** has developed Surgical Instruments (identified the metallurgy, designed the instruments and got them materialized) and put them into use for surgical purposes and are as identical as the present Surgical Instruments but only difference is they are more sophisticated than earlier surgical instruments; however the principle, the idea and the development of the instruments but not only their knowledge in metallurgy is a testimony of Ancient Indian Acharyas/Vaidyars and their proficiency in healthcare and healthcare facilities.

“Vaidyo narayano hari”

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