

A CRITICAL STUDY ON THE EMERGING IMPORTANCE OF MEDICAL COLLEGES AND HOSPITALS IN WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT

The Medical Colleges and Hospitals are those healthcare institutions which are mainly run by the Government of a State. In these institutions all modern healthcare facilities are available at affordable rates especially for the disadvantaged and below poverty line group of population. These hospitals hold a large catchment area serving population from remote rural areas to the slum and shanty dwellers in the urban areas. This paper is an attempt to focus on the emerging importance of medical colleges and hospitals in the medical field of West Bengal. At present there are 13 medical colleges and hospitals scattered in eight districts of the State. These healthcare institutions are flooded with referral patients from neighbouring districts, states as well as countries. One of the highlighting problems faced by these centres includes inadequate infrastructure and lack of trained human resource. The study tries to assess the reasons behind such inadequacy and the Government initiatives in solving crisis of beds, doctors and nurses in these healthcare institutions.

KEYWORDS: Bed Occupancy Rate, Bed Turnover Rate, Healthcare Institutions, Referral Patients, Below Poverty Line Group of Population