The word "hospital" originates from the Latin "hospice". The term hospital has at different times been used to refer to an institution for the aged and infirm, a place of rest, a hotel where people lived as a small community, and an institution for the care of the sick and wounded.

The Egyptians and the Greeks had hospitals in the modern sense, but their great development came with Christianity. Some of the notable hospitals established in the Western World date back to ancient times. The earliest hospital was founded at Hotel Dieu in Paris in 542 A.D., St. Bartholomew's hospital in London dates from the year 1123 A.D.

The hospitals founded in Britain and in America during the 18th and early 19th centuries were not government undertakings. They were the outcome of voluntary efforts by private citizens and were financed by subscription and bequest.

Hospital administration today an essential part of the medical care scheme. Owing to the increasing complexity of the medical sciences, it is very necessary that administration and medical practitioners should be able to rely on a sound hospital administrative system. Hospital management is more than institutional management, it is general administration, business administration, health and medical administration all combined together. In our state not much work is done in this field. Therefore, with a view to examine about hospital administration in general and the "Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar" in particular, I have taken up this subject.
For its study, we have adopted the historical and social survey method. The method used in this work includes observation of patients and interview them on various aspects of hospital service and administration. Thus, a total number of 360 patients were interviewed. Out of which 258 were out-door patients and 102 in-door patients. The interview was conducted with the help of a schedule-cum-questionnaire.

The Modern Medical System of Medicine and Education (Allopathy) in India commenced in the year 1857 when the British East India Company established the three Medical Colleges in Madras, Calcutta and Bombay. Those were the foundations of Modern Medical Science and medical facilities in India.

The need to take stock of health care status of the country and plan appropriate measures was felt by the government in the early forties. This was born the "Health Survey and Planning Committee", better known as Bhore Committee in 1943.

Historically, in India, a systematic hospital care with different kinds of hospitals, treatment and teaching hospitals has been planned, established and developed only after independence.

Soon after this, the Homoeopathy Enquiry Committee (J.N. Mukherji Committee 1948-49), Model Public Health Act Committee (Das Gupta Committee 1953-55), Dayasankar Trikamji Dave Committee (1955), Udupa Committee (1958-59), Health Survey and Development Committee or (Mudaliar Committee, 1959), Contributory Health Services scheme Assessment Committee (1961-62), Hospital Review Committee (K.N. Rao Committee 1968), Srivastava Committee (1974), etc. was set-up in the country to look into health care services.
In Orissa, medical care in western lines started almost 130 years ago much ahead of other regions. In the year 1912, Orissa and Bihar provinces were separated from the Bengal Presidency and the new province of Orissa and Bihar was created. At the opening of the year 1913-14 there were 328 hospitals and dispensaries of all classes in the province. The History of Orissa as a separate province began from the 1st April 1936. In the year 1942 the formation of the St. John Ambulance, Nursing and Cadet divisions in the province was made. Among the Government Medical Colleges, the Sriram Chandra Bhanja Medical College at Cuttack happens to be one of the oldest centre of medical teaching and training in India, was established on the 1st of June 1944. The second medical college, the Vir Surendra Sai (V.S.S.) Medical College, Burla came up in June 1959 near Sambalpur. The 3rd medical institution, the Maharaja Krishna Chandra Gajapati (MKCG) Medical College came into existence in the year 1962. In Orissa, in the year 1980, the private practice of the Government Doctors was abolished and twenty-four hour casualty service was introduced along with extra provision of X-ray and laboratory services in hospitals.

On structural basis, Orissa, as a state of Indian union has its own Health Administrative System with a State Health Department, Health Directorate, Health Service in the District Level, Block Level, Sub-Block Level and Grampanchayat Level. The Minister, Health and Family Welfare is in overall charge of the State Health Administration. The Secretary, who is the chief executive of Department of Health and Family Welfare is a permanent civil servant and responsible for all activities of his Department. He is assisted by Addl. Secretary, Joint Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary and administrative staff, Section Officers, Sr. Assistants and Jr. Assistants. At the Directorate level, the health service in Orissa is spread over six separate
directorates and each headed by a Director. At the district level, Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) is head of the district health administration. At present, the health service in Orissa is spread over to three Medical College Hospitals, 30 District Headquarters Hospitals, 22 Sub-Divisional Hospitals, and large number of Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, Mobile Health Units, etc.

Our place of study, the Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar is established in November 1954 and located in the Forest Park area to the southern side of Bhubaneswar city. This hospital is headed by a Chief Medical Officer and caters public service through fourteen departments. The officers/doctors and staff working in this hospital are 549 in number. On the present study, it is learnt that, majority of patients preferred this hospital, because this is a government hospital.

The service provided by the hospital needs to be improved along with infrastructural facilities and diet scale of patients. Effort needs to be given by the administrative to make this hospital more pro-poor and patient friendly.

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(Sharmistha Nayak)