

ACTUALIZATION OF A TEN (10) BED CAPACITY PEDIATRIC WARD

BY

MADAM HAWA ISSAHAQUE

NURSE MANAGER

HAIN POLYCLINIC

JIRAPA MUNICIPAL, UPPER WEST REGION

INTRODUCTION

Health infrastructure is crucial for a functioning healthcare system, encompassing the facilities, resources, and systems necessary to deliver effective health services. It forms the foundation for disease prevention, health promotion, and emergency response, impacting both individual well-being and the overall health of a community. Adequate health infrastructure ensures access to quality care, supports public health initiatives, and enables efficient resource management. Ghana allocates approximately 6% of its GDP to healthcare infrastructure, with identified gaps accentuated by the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the need for additional district-level hospitals. The challenges related to health infrastructure in Ghana are complex and require a multi-faceted approach involving increased investment, strategic planning, and community engagement to ensure that all Ghanaians have access to quality healthcare services. Such was the challenge I met at Hain polyclinic in February, 2022. Outstanding among the challenges detected was the lack of infrastructure in the facility. All patients be it males, females and children were admitted and managed on the same area of confinement or room. Knowing how fragile and weak kids immune system can be, I started pounding over how to create an isolation and management of children from the rest of the patients.

Objectives

1. To lobby for a building as children's ward.
2. To prevent nosocomial infection.
3. To strengthen facility based paediatric care.

Method

Lobby for a building as Children's Ward

1. Engagement with a friend and an NGO; founder of SAHARA ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE for the establishment of a pediatric unit in Hain polyclinic.
2. A delegation of four (4) member team from Netherlands met with core management to discuss the necessity of the unit establishment and drawing of a budget.

3. Survey of the ground by a team of artisans.
4. Community stakeholder engagement.

Prevention of Nosocomial Infection

1. Admission of only children to the ward.
2. Allocation of PPEs for the ward
3. Provision of separate equipment to be used on children
4. Proper waste management systems
5. Routine environmental cleaning

Strengthening of Facility Based Paediatric Care

1. Designation of staff to work in the ward.
2. In-service training of staff on paediatric care.

Results

Lobby for a building as Children's Ward

1. A ten bed paediatric ward was built to house only children in 2023.
2. Averagely 150 children are admitted monthly.
3. Community members availed themselves as labour.

Prevention of Nosocomial Infection

1. The ward housed only children.
2. 10 staff were designated to manage the ward.
3. Logistics supplied to the unit for provision of quality care.

Strengthening of Facility Based Paediatric Care

1. A paediatric nurse made to head the ward as In-charge.
2. In-service training organized for the ten (10) staff in August, 2023 before the commissioning of the unit.

Conclusion

Building a ward, whether for healthcare, residential, or other purposes, requires careful planning and consideration of various factors to ensure functionality, comfort, and safety. A well-designed ward should optimize space, promote efficient workflows, and create a positive environment for occupants. Ultimately, the goal of building a ward is to create a space that is both functional and supportive of the activities that will take place within it. By carefully considering the key factors mentioned above, it is possible to create a ward that is efficient, safe, and conducive to the well-being of its occupants.

PICTURES









THE END