

A Systematic Review on Role of Health Care Administration in Geriatric Care



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Abstract

Geriatric care is very critical care owing to the fact that elderly people need care and comfort to lead a healthy life without worries and anxiety. Elderly care is a bit peculiar as compared to other specializations in medicine. Non-clinical interventions assumes rather more importance *inter alia* and services. The world population is rising so the proportion of elderly habitants. Such rising proportions call for more attention on geriatric care. The aim of this research is to study and find the evidence that the role of health care administration is rather more important for geriatrics. The study retrieved few articles and a thorough examination of articles reveals that there is lot of research in the field that emphasises several clinical interventions without explicitly mentioning the importance of administration services in geriatric clinics and hospitals. However, all those recommendations found in this literature indirectly call for more effective and efficient intervention of health care administration.

Keywords: Geriatrics; Elderly Care; Health Care Administration; Literature Review

Introduction

The world is aging quickly and the proportion of population having elderly people is increasing steadily. Almost 500 million people worldwide were above 65 in 2006. It is estimated to rise to a whopping amount of 1 billion by 2030. This means 1 in every 8 inhabitants will be aged individual on the globe. Most of this elderliness is witnessing in developing countries [1]. The rising levels of elderliness in population also brings rising illness and diseases. Older patients require more care and that trigger more cost and other economic burdens directly to hospitals and indirectly to the economy. The care, so, becomes precious for patients which in turn throw more challenges to healthcare administrators to make it further affordable.

Methods

The very objective of this article is to explore and find some of the potential problems in the area of geriatrics with a special emphasis on health care administration. As it was mentioned in the introduction, the rising population engender increase in diseases and other health issues in elderly people. This tends to pose more challenges to health care administrators due to the very fact that managing geriatric care is not as it is with other specializations.

This study is basically a review work. Few articles of scholarly nature were retrieved using Google Scholar. The online search was performed using certain tags like healthcare administration, medical problems, geriatrics. About 16,30,000

results were displayed in 0.68 seconds. All the links displayed observed to have three of the tags that were used for data retrieval. However, only first few yet suitable 5 articles were used to make the review. The articles were selected using simple random sampling method. The following section shows the observations of the study.

Review

Ory MG [2] did certain study titled "emerging issues in geriatric care: aging and public health perspectives". The aim of the research is to find and detect major social and healthcare challenges of aging population in US. The study finds that though the overall disability is decreasing yet the burden of the same together with other health conditions of the public in US tend to rise in near future. The study offers certain solution that evidence-based interventions might be able to address health problems of aging population. The study also suggests that the databases are useful to retrieve certain data and address the health problems of aging population. This study did not mention anything explicitly about health care administration however, some of the facts that were mentioned in the study are found to have connections with health care administration. For instance, data retrieval and their potential use for healthcare improvement involve the role of administrators. In the same fashion, health care interventions, that were suggested in this study also, one way or the other demands active yet efficient administration practices in hospitals.

Amy KTD et al. [3] did certain study on patient safety in geriatrics. The article mentions that the patient safety has become major health concern. The study criticises certain other publication named "To err is human" which is published by Institute of Medicine in 1999. The study also did certain critique on safety systems in healthcare concerns. The study makes six recommendations after going through certain safety methods. They are: detection and reporting of geriatric syndromes, identifying system failures when geriatric syndromes occur, establishing dedicated geriatric units, improving the continuity of care, reducing adverse drug events, and improving geriatric training programs. This study perhaps brings rather more importance on healthcare administration. Implementation of safety measures as they were suggested in the study demands active role of healthcare administrators. Some of the safety measures i.e. establishing dedicated geriatric units, continuity of care, training programs in geriatrics gives the idea that health care administration is very critical for geriatric care.

Merrell RC [4] did a study on Geriatric Telemedicine with an aim to excavate evidence for telemedicine as a way to address problems through review of literature. The research mentions that the telemedicine offers many means to address the problems of geriatric care in creative ways. The use of electronic medicine, telecommunications, and information management has now found its way into the very fabric of health care. The use of telemedicine is a fait accompli in much of the world, and it continues to have an increasing role deeply imbedded in our electronic practices coupled with social media. Though this paper has not mentioned anything health care administration explicitly but some of the issues like electronic medicine, telecommunications, information management do require lot of administration services apart from clinical services.

Hanlon JT [5] did study on drug-related problems in older adults. The aim of the study was a systematic review employing methods related to online database searches. The authors retrieved 2012 scholarly articles. The study was done using certain online tags like combination of the terms elderly, aged, drug-related problems, medication related problems, medication errors, suboptimal prescribing, inappropriate prescribing, underutilization, polypharmacy, medication monitoring, medication dispensing, medication administration, medication adherence, adverse drug events, and adverse drug withdrawal events. Only 40 of articles found to be apt for the study. Out of 40 only 24 articles found to be related to medication errors, followed by 18 related to ADEs, majority of them addressing adverse drug reactions. Only 3 of the retrieved articles found apt for the study and recommendations were done based on these articles. Perhaps, this is the only paper among all which mentions about the word administration so explicitly in the research findings.

Sidik SM et al. [6] did a study on physical and mental health problems of the elderly in rural Selangor. The study was done

using five of nine village's selected using random sampling in the sampling area. Elderly people in those selected areas were interviewed using a pre-tested structured questionnaire which included -30, ECAQ and Barthel Indices. The study shows that out of 263 study individuals, which 6.2 % of population, 60.1 % of the surveyed people agreed to have physical problems. 15.1 % found to have functional dependence. It was also found that each of 7.6% and 22.4% of people are suffering from mental health problems such as depression and cognitive impairment respectively. More interestingly depression is significantly associated with unemployment, whereas, cognitive impairment is significantly associated with several of socioeconomic characteristics. Though there isn't any mentioning of health care administration but few of main variables such as unemployment, cognitive impairment, socioeconomic characteristics and their influence on care were directly falls in the ambit of health care administration.

Conclusion

The main of this paper is to find certain evidence in support of the role and its importance of health care administration especially in geriatric care. As far as methodology is concerned the data retrieved from certain sources using Google Scholar. Only very few articles were studied in search of evidence in support of the assumption that the role of health care administration is very critical for geriatric care. Only one research paper out of five selected has mentioned about the importance of health care administration in geriatric care. Rest of the papers had not mentioned anything about administration services. Suggestions or findings that were done through these papers indirectly emphasises importance of health care administration. So this review work suggests that all care done through geriatrics needs effective and efficient health care administration services. However, more research effort with rigorous and meticulous methods need to be done to affirm such statements of care.

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