

While setting up a new hospital, people are more oriented towards planning the structure of the hospital and concentrating on the medical and health care facilities that are to be provided to the people. Often the authorities forget about the healing aspect and the underlying spiritual concepts.

From time immemorial healing and spirituality have been interconnected and they go hand in hand.

“When it comes to the issue of spirituality and healing hospitals, the health care givers in the hospitals consider the emotional side. Chapman (2003) is of the view that people do not change into one dimensional beings when they become patients the patients emotional needs increase when the body is in a weak constitution. Chapman gives a model in which total loving care is equal to Higher Standard. In this view, there is the patient there is the disease and there is the humanity shown by the health care giver. Humanity in this model is the healthcare givers feeling about the disease. To further elaborate Chapman states that hospitals that follow some sort of religious tradition cannot be said to be churches, however, they do need to portray a higher standard in terms of the services they offer and the principles via which they offer these services. Before we get into the challenges of establishing a healing hospital, it is important to state the premise from which these hospitals were established. Chapman (2003) quotes former vice president Hubert H. Humphrey. The moral test of a society is how that society treats those who are in the dawn of life- the children; those who are in the twilight of life- the elderly and those who are in the shadow of life- the sick, the needy and the handicapped. It is from the words in the shadow of life that the concept of a healing hospital arose. It is imperative to state here that Healing hospitals are not against any of the modern medicine practices or the technologies and drugs that are use. Healing Hospitals are on a mission to restore equilibrium in what seems like an unbalanced health care system Chapman (2003). Healing hospitals seek to integrate spiritual, physical, social as well as psychological.”

Apart from this the fact is not forgone that there are several problems when it comes to setting up a healing environment in a hospital. “Healing hospitals have been known to get very successful results. There is both employee and patient satisfaction, financial performance for these hospitals is better than other non-healing hospitals due to the reduced turnover. Nevertheless, there are challenges that these hospitals have had to face over the years with regard to establishment and growth. This has been due to the difference in their modus operandi in comparison to the regular hospitals. Chapman (2003), postulates that veterans of healing hospitals have had five main challenges when it comes to starting up these institutions. Technology, prescription drugs, business factors, bureaucracy, cynicism and poor leadership. Technology Healthcare Futurist such as Dr. James Canton claim to have technologies that defy the process of aging by turning off certain genes.”

The bible also supports the very concept of healing. There are many biblical parables and stories that testify the same: “Any Biblical understanding of health must acknowledge that God is the healer. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not His benefits, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases (Ps 103:1-3). Although health workers may attempt to facilitate healing in many ways, He is the healer. All life flows from God, who is the creator of all things. We must trust Him to bring about healing and wholeness in us and those whom we serve through the health professions. It is only through the redemption of Jesus that we can come to wholeness in our body, soul and spirit, as only His cross has brought freedom from sin and sickness(1Peter 2:24). If our faith is in God and we are walking in obedience to Him as we work, allowing the Spirit to work in and through us, it is a privilege to be His vessels bringing His healing power to those we work with each day. There are a number of Biblical themes which are very relevant to health issues. Firstly we find in the Law of Moses many references to diagnosis and management, particularly of infectious diseases. The priests were the people assigned to diagnose diseases and confirm healing. There were many laws relating to what we might call hygiene or public health issues which were far ahead of other peoples of the time. In Ex 15:26 God told Moses that if you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you. I would think that this would partly be due to the fact that obeying the Law assists in keeping us healthy, but also that obeying God brings blessing (Dt 28:1- 14), whereas disobedience brings cursing which includes diseases (Dt 28:20-22).”

Reference:

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