

**ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE OF FREE REFERRED CARE TO
INDIA FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999-2004**

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**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Public Health in Health Systems Development**

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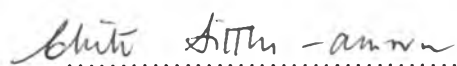
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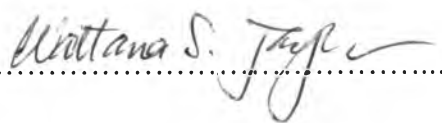
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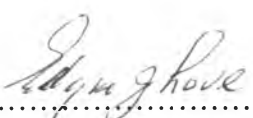
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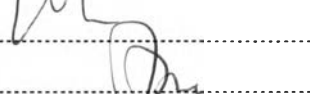
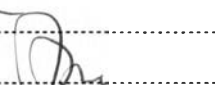
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The objective of this Analysis of Expenditure was to provide information on expenditures for free referred care to India for policy makers and care providers in Bhutan. The study aimed to describe expenditures related to health care, broad treatment outcomes and effectiveness of referred care to India

A total of 3,020 patients' data referred by different medical specialties during the fiscal years 1999-2004 were collected and treatment outcomes and effectiveness were defined by a team of medical experts at Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital, Thimphu. The results showed there were more males referred than females. The operating expenditure of free referred care has been increasing over the 5 year period and during 2002-03 and 2003-04 there was an increase of over 10%. This is a cause for concern on future sustainability. A combined treatment outcomes of "recovered" or "improved" for all centers and medical specialties remained over 86.1%, except for Gynaecology/Obstetrics which was 77.8% only. Similarly treatment effectiveness also remained over 100% for all medical specialties except Gynae/Obs at 97.2%

This study is a first attempt of its kind in Bhutan by providing a first step in expenditure analysis for referred health care to India. Further studies are required to ascertain expenditure, outcomes and effectiveness of free health care in India. Future efforts to conduct effectiveness study requires a pre-determined goal so that appropriate data are recorded to facilitate monitoring and evaluation.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background and Significance.....	1
1.2 Evaluation Questions.....	11
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	11
1.4 Scope of the Study.....	12
1.5 Definitions of Variables Employed in the Study.....	12
1.6 Key Words.....	14
1.7 Expected Benefits.....	14
CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW	15
2.1 Introduction.....	15
2.2 Cost.....	15
2.3 Economic Evaluation.....	16
2.4 Hospital Cost Allocation.....	17
2.5 Cost Effectiveness Analysis.....	18
2.6 Increasing Health Care Expenditure.....	19

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	22
3.1 Study Design.....	22
3.2 Study Area.....	22
3.3 Sample Frame.....	22
3.4 Sampling Methods.....	23
3.5 Research Instrument.....	23
3.6 Data Collection Procedure.....	23
3.7 Data Analysis.....	23
3.8 Descriptive Statistics.....	24
3.9 Ethical Consideration.....	24
CHAPTER IV RESULTS	25
4.1 Patients Fiscal Years 1999-2004.....	25
4.2 Operating Expenditures for the Fiscal Year 1999-2004.....	34
4.3 Distribution of Operating Expenditure by Specialties for the Fiscal Years 1999-2004.....	40
4.4 Breakdown of Operating Expenditures by Centers f or the Fiscal Year 2003-2004.....	44
4.5 Treatment Outcomes for the Fiscal Year 2003-2004.....	51
4.6 Effectiveness of Treatment Outcomes for the Fiscal Year 2003-2004.....	52
CHAPTER V DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS	54
5.1 Recommendations.....	57
REFERENCES	60

APPENDICES	61
APPENDIX A Checklist used to move through the process of Cost Analysis for Free Referred Health Care Services in Bhutan during the Fiscal Year 1999-2004.....	62
APPENDIX B Survey Budget.....	63
APPENDIX C Schedule of Activities.....	64
 CURRICULUM VITAE	 65

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 3.1: Measurement and Variables.....	24
Table 4.1: Distribution of Referrals by Centers FY1999-2000.....	30
Table 4.2: Distribution of Referrals by Centers FY 2000-2001.....	30
Table 4.3: Distribution of Referrals by Centers FY 2001-2002.....	31
Table 4.4: Distribution of Referrals by Centers FY 2002-2003.....	31
Table 4.5: Distribution of Referrals by Centers FY 2003-2004.....	32
Table 4.6: Referral by Residence and Occupation (Cumulative % 5 years).....	33
Table 4.7: Operating Expenditure incurred at 4 centers FY 1999-2004.....	37
Table 4.8: Breakdown of Operating Expenditure FY 1999-2004.....	39
Table 4.9: Distribution of Operating Expenditure by Specialties FY 1999-2004.....	43
Table 4.10: Breakdown of Operating Expenditure by specialties at Vellore FY 2003-2004.....	45
Table 4.11: Breakdown of Operating Expenditure by specialties at Kalkota FY 2003-2004.....	48
Table 4.12: Breakdown of Operating Expenditure by specialties at Gauhati FY 2003-2004.....	50
Table 4.13: Breakdown of Operating Expenditure by specialties at Delhi FY 1999-2004.....	50
Table 4.14: Cumulative Treatment Outcomes of four Centers FY 2003-2004.....	52
Table 4.15: Treatment Outcomes and Effectiveness Outcomes for the FY 2003-2004.....	53

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1.1: Decision Flow Chart on Free Referred Care To India	3
Figure 1.2: Flow chart of Referred Procedures	6
Figure 1.3: Administrative Structure	8
Figure 1.4: Conceptual Frame Work of Analysis	11
Figure 4.1: Distribution of Referrals to India by Genders and FY 1999-2004	26
Figure 4.2: Distribution of Referrals by Adults, Children, Genders FY 1999-2004	27
Figure 4.3: Total Operating Expenditures FY 1999-2004	34
Figure 4.4: Average Operating Expenditures FY 1999-2004	35
Figure 4.5: Total Number of Patients Referred FY 1999-2004	36
Figure 4.6: Medical Expenditure FY 1999-2004	37
Figure 4.7: Expenditures of Air and Land travel and Expenditure of Daily Allowance and Administration FY 1999-2004	38
Figure 4.8: Percentage of Operating Expenditures by Specialties FY 1999-2004	40
Figure 4.9: Breakup of Operating Expenditures at four Centers FY 2003-2004	44
Figure 4.10: Cumulative Treatment Outcomes at four Centers FY 2003-2004	51