

Towards A Sustainable Healthcare System In Saudi Arabia: The Role Of Effective Administration

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Abstract

The healthcare system in Saudi Arabia is facing numerous challenges, ranging from increasing demand for services due to population growth and lifestyle changes, to limited resources and high healthcare costs. In order to achieve a sustainable healthcare system, effective administration is crucial. This qualitative review paper aims to explore the current state of healthcare administration in Saudi Arabia and its role in promoting sustainability. The paper discusses the concept of sustainability in healthcare, highlighting its three dimensions - economic, social, and environmental. It then delves into the challenges faced by the Saudi Arabian healthcare system and how these challenges affect sustainability. This is followed by an analysis of the current state of healthcare administration in the country, including the role and responsibilities of healthcare administrators. The paper further examines the key factors that contribute to effective healthcare administration such as governance, leadership, human resources, and financial management. It also discusses the strategies and initiatives implemented by the government to address the challenges faced by the healthcare system and promote sustainability. Furthermore, this review paper explores the perspectives of healthcare professionals and patients on the effectiveness of healthcare administration in Saudi Arabia. It also sheds light on the potential barriers and issues that hinder the implementation of sustainable practices. Through this qualitative review, it becomes evident that effective healthcare administration is essential in achieving a sustainable healthcare system in Saudi Arabia. The paper concludes by providing recommendations and suggestions for improvement, emphasizing the need for a collaborative and coordinated approach between all stakeholders involved in the administration of healthcare services. It is hoped that this paper will serve as a useful resource for policymakers and healthcare leaders in their efforts towards building a sustainable healthcare system in Saudi Arabia.

Keywords: Sustainable Healthcare System, Saudi Arabia, Effective Administration, Review.

Introduction

Saudi Arabia is currently in the process of transforming its healthcare system to meet the demands of its growing population and the increasing burden of chronic diseases. As the largest

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country in the Middle East, with a population of over 33 million, providing quality healthcare services to its citizens is a top priority for the Saudi government (Rahman & Qattan, 2021). However, like many other developing countries, Saudi Arabia is facing numerous challenges in achieving a sustainable healthcare system. These challenges include rapid population growth, inadequate infrastructure, shortage of trained healthcare professionals, and rising healthcare costs (Al-Hanawi, et al., 2019).

To tackle these challenges, the Saudi Arabian government has been implementing various initiatives, such as the National Transformation Program and Vision 2030, to improve the country's healthcare system (Rahman & Qattan, 2021). These initiatives aim to provide universal healthcare coverage, enhance the quality of healthcare services, and reduce healthcare costs for citizens. However, the success of these initiatives relies heavily on effective healthcare administration.

Effective administration is crucial for the sustainable development of any healthcare system, as it involves the management of financial, human, and technological resources to achieve desired health outcomes (Asmri, et al., 2020). In the context of Saudi Arabia, effective administration plays a vital role in achieving a sustainable healthcare system that can meet the needs of its citizens and address the challenges facing the healthcare sector.

Therefore, this paper aims to explore the role of effective administration in achieving a sustainable healthcare system in Saudi Arabia. To achieve this aim, a qualitative review of existing literature will be conducted to identify the key elements of effective administration and their impact on the healthcare system in Saudi Arabia. The findings of this review paper will provide valuable insights for policymakers and healthcare administrators in Saudi Arabia to improve the effectiveness of healthcare administration in the country.

This review paper is significant for several reasons. Firstly, it will provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of effective administration in achieving a sustainable healthcare system in Saudi Arabia and the current challenges faced by the system. Secondly, it will contribute to the existing literature by identifying the key elements of effective administration in the Saudi Arabian healthcare system. Thirdly, it will provide valuable insights for policymakers and healthcare administrators to improve the effectiveness of the healthcare system in the country.

In conclusion, the success of the healthcare system in Saudi Arabia depends on effective administration. The current challenges faced by the system call for urgent actions to strengthen the administration of the system. This paper aims to contribute to this effort by exploring the role of effective administration in achieving a sustainable healthcare system.

Methods & Results

Methodology

This qualitative review paper aims to explore the role of effective administration in promoting a sustainable healthcare system in Saudi Arabia. In order to achieve this, a thorough review of the existing literature and research studies was conducted. The methodology for this paper involved a systematic process of identification, selection, and analysis of the relevant literature on healthcare administration in Saudi Arabia. The steps involved in this methodology are described below.

Literature Search

The first step in the methodology was to conduct a comprehensive search of the existing literature on healthcare administration in Saudi Arabia. This was done by using key search terms such as "sustainable healthcare system," "healthcare administration," and "Saudi Arabia" in various databases such as PubMed, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar. The search was limited to articles published in the last 10 years to ensure that the review reflects the current state of healthcare administration in Saudi Arabia.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The inclusion criteria for the literature search were articles that focused on healthcare administration in Saudi Arabia and its impact on sustainable healthcare system. The articles were also required to be published in English and to have been peer-reviewed. Studies that did not meet these criteria were excluded from the review.

Data Extraction and Analysis

After the initial search, all the selected articles were carefully reviewed and analysed to identify the key themes and findings related to the role of effective administration in promoting a sustainable healthcare system in Saudi Arabia. The data extraction process involved categorizing the articles into different themes and sub-themes based on their relevance to the research question.

Quality Assessment

In order to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings, the quality of the selected articles was assessed using the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) checklist for qualitative studies. This checklist consists of 10 critical appraisal questions that evaluate the rigor and relevance of the study.

Results

The findings of this qualitative review paper revealed that effective administration plays a crucial role in promoting a sustainable healthcare system in Saudi Arabia. The results are presented in two main themes: the importance of effective administration and challenges faced by healthcare administration in Saudi Arabia.

Importance of Effective Administration

The reviewed literature highlighted the importance of effective administration in promoting a sustainable healthcare system in Saudi Arabia. The findings showed that a well-structured and efficient administration is crucial for successful healthcare delivery. This includes effective leadership, strategic planning, and efficient resource management. It was also found that effective management of healthcare facilities, such as hospitals and clinics, is essential for providing quality healthcare services to the population. Moreover, the literature emphasized the need for effective financial management in the healthcare sector. This includes proper budgeting, cost control, and financial transparency, which are essential for the sustainability of the healthcare system. The role of technology in healthcare administration was also highlighted, as it can improve efficiency and streamline processes, ultimately leading to sustainable healthcare delivery. (Albejaidi, 2010; Almalki, et al., 2011; Alahmadi, 2010).

Challenges faced by Healthcare Administration in Saudi Arabia

Despite the importance of effective administration in promoting a sustainable healthcare system, the reviewed literature revealed several challenges faced by healthcare administration in Saudi Arabia. One of the major challenges is the shortage of qualified healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and administrative staff. The scarcity of skilled human resources has strained the capacity of the healthcare system, leading to an increase in waiting

times and decreased quality of care. Additionally, the literature highlighted the need for improved coordination and communication between different healthcare sectors in Saudi Arabia. This includes better collaboration between government and private healthcare institutions, as well as between different government agencies responsible for healthcare, in order to ensure efficient and effective healthcare delivery. Another important challenge identified in the literature is the lack of proper management and communication between healthcare providers and patients. This includes issues such as poor patient education, lack of involvement in decision-making, and inadequate follow-up care. These challenges can lead to dissatisfaction among patients and jeopardize the sustainability of the healthcare system. Furthermore, the reviewed literature also revealed the need for better utilization of resources in the healthcare sector. This includes proper inventory management, improved infrastructure, and modern technology, which can ultimately reduce costs and enhance the efficiency of the healthcare system. (Alaboudi, et al., 2016; Khalifa, 2013; Khalifa, 2014; Albejaidi, 2010; Alomi, et al., 2015).

Conclusion

In conclusion, this qualitative review paper provides evidence for the crucial role that effective administration plays in promoting a sustainable healthcare system in Saudi Arabia. The review highlights the importance of leadership, financial management, and technology in healthcare administration. It also identifies the challenges faced by the healthcare system in Saudi Arabia, such as resource management, coordination and communication, and human resource shortage. The findings of this review can help policymakers and healthcare professionals in Saudi Arabia to identify areas for improvement and develop strategies for promoting an efficient and sustainable healthcare system.

Discussion & Conclusion

Discussion

The healthcare system in Saudi Arabia has undergone significant transformations over the years, with a focus on improving quality and accessibility of care for its citizens. However, the sustainability of this system remains a major challenge, especially in the face of rising healthcare costs and a growing population. In this qualitative review, we have explored the role of effective administration in achieving a sustainable healthcare system in Saudi Arabia.

One of the key findings of this review is the central role of leadership and governance in ensuring the sustainability of healthcare in the country. Effective administration involves the development and implementation of policies that promote efficiency, accountability, and transparency in the healthcare system. This requires strong leadership and strategic planning to address the various challenges facing the sector. Our review highlights the need for the government to actively engage in the management of the healthcare system, instead of leaving it solely in the hands of private entities. (Albejaidi, 2010; Almalki, et al., 2011; Alahmadi, 2010).

Moreover, effective administration also involves the efficient allocation of resources, which is crucial for the sustainability of the healthcare system. Our review has identified several factors that contribute to the mismanagement of resources in Saudi Arabia's healthcare system, such as inadequate data analysis, lack of coordination between different healthcare providers, and the absence of cost-containment strategies. To address these challenges, there is a need for a comprehensive resource management plan that involves all stakeholders, including

government agencies, healthcare providers, and patients. (Albejaidi, 2010; Almalki, et al., 2011; Alahmadi, 2010).

Another crucial aspect of effective administration in achieving a sustainable healthcare system is the adoption of a patient-centered approach. This involves putting the patient at the center of all decisions and policies, considering their needs, preferences, and values. Currently, the healthcare system in Saudi Arabia is provider-oriented, with little emphasis on patient satisfaction and involvement. Our review highlights the importance of incorporating patient feedback and involving them in the decision-making process to improve the quality of care and ensure the sustainability of the system.

One of the significant challenges hindering the sustainability of healthcare in Saudi Arabia is the shortage of healthcare professionals, especially in rural and remote areas. Our review has identified several factors contributing to this shortage, such as the high workload, low salaries, and lack of incentives. Effective administration involves addressing these issues by implementing retention strategies, providing training and career development opportunities, and offering competitive salaries and benefits. Moreover, there is a need for greater investment in healthcare education and training to produce a skilled and competent workforce. (Alaboudi, et al., 2016; Khalifa, 2013; Khalifa, 2014; Albejaidi, 2010; Alomi, et al., 2015).

Furthermore, the effective use of technology has the potential to improve the sustainability of healthcare in Saudi Arabia. Our review has identified several technological advancements that have been adopted in the healthcare sector, such as electronic health records (EHRs), telemedicine, and mobile health applications. These technologies have the potential to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance the quality of care. However, their implementation and integration into the healthcare system require effective administration and proper planning to ensure their successful adoption and sustainability. (Alaboudi, et al., 2016; Khalifa, 2013; Khalifa, 2014; Albejaidi, 2010; Alomi, et al., 2015).

Despite the various challenges facing the healthcare system in Saudi Arabia, there have been some notable achievements in recent years. For instance, the government's implementation of the National Transformation Program and Vision 2030 has brought significant improvements in the healthcare sector. These initiatives have emphasized the importance of effective administration in achieving a sustainable healthcare system and have outlined specific strategies and goals to address the current challenges.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this qualitative review has highlighted the crucial role of effective administration in achieving a sustainable healthcare system in Saudi Arabia. A sustainable healthcare system requires strong leadership, efficient resource management, patient-centered care, investment in healthcare education, and the adoption of technology. The government, healthcare providers, and patients must work together to overcome the various challenges facing the sector. Furthermore, continuous monitoring and evaluation of policies and strategies are essential to ensure the sustainability of the healthcare system in the long run. With proper administration and the collective efforts of all stakeholders, the goal of a sustainable healthcare system in Saudi Arabia can be achieved.

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