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Awareness and Perception of Green Hospital Concept Among the Healthcare Professionals in Jalandhar

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Abstract: ***The integration of sustainable practices with healthcare improvements takes place through hospitals focusing on decreasing the environmental impacts of healthcare facilities. Healthcare professionals often fail to effectively implement green hospital practices due to a lack of awareness about their potential benefits. An investigation has been conducted to examine how Jalandhar healthcare professionals perceive and implement green hospital practices, as well as their awareness levels and the challenges they encounter in practice. The research demonstrates why healthcare workers in Jalandhar require standardised education, together with institutional backing that supports Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action). Healthcare institutions generate substantial environmental contamination due to their excessive use of energy resources and the production of large amounts of waste. The adoption of sustainable practices in green hospitals leads to better healthcare outcomes, along with stronger environmental resilience, as they focus on energy-efficient designs, sustainable building standards, and proper waste management. Green hospitals are becoming increasingly common worldwide, yet their adoption remains relatively low in India. The present efforts primarily focus on waste management solutions and energy conservation practices, but sustainable practices require further development. Healthcare professionals throughout Jalandhar received an assessment through a structured questionnaire regarding their knowledge levels and perceptions of green hospital installation, as well as the implementation barriers they face. The survey inquiry collected information about demographics, as well as participants' knowledge levels of environmental hospital practices and their perceived advantages, and their organisations' support deficiencies. Medical staff from various hospitals, along with nursing personnel and administrative personnel, participated in the survey. Most healthcare workers demonstrate knowledge about green hospital practices; however, they often struggle with insufficient support and training from their institutions. Key results include: Among the surveyed medical staff, only 65 per cent demonstrated awareness about energy conservation, yet 40 per cent. The per cent grasped complete green hospital systems. Seven out of ten healthcare providers (75%) showed they needed training on sustainability practices, yet they had not received any formal instruction. The main obstacles cited by hospital personnel included [1] 55% feeling organizations lacked support, [2] 48% reporting financial limitations, and [3] 42% experiencing resource scarcity. The complete realization of green hospital benefits requires stakeholders to establish training programs as their top priority. The training of green hospitals must become an obligatory component in healthcare education programs through government policies. Sustainable healthcare practices need institutional support, which enables the provision of essential funding and performance-based policies [4]. Numerous international healthcare facilities have proven how green hospitals cut costs and create better patient results [5]. Green infrastructure implementation in hospitals of developed nations generates both 30% less energy expenses and better patient experiences [6]. India needs to develop customized green hospital strategies to gain similar advantages as other nations have achieved. Healthcare institutions should integrate the green hospital concept into their accreditation standards, together with performance evaluation procedures. The advancement of sustainable healthcare practices depends heavily on three essential elements: improved awareness, organized training programs, and company-wide support and dedication. The research will support future investigations into practical strategies for implementing green hospital practices throughout India.***

Keywords: Green Hospitals, Environmental Sustainability, Healthcare Professionals, Awareness, Perception, India.

Abbreviations:
GHRM: Green Human Resource Management
SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
WHO: World Health Organization's
F-ANP: Fuzzy Analytic Network Process
EWM: Entropy Weight Method
GRA: Grey Relational Analysis

I. INTRODUCTION

Green hospital facilities are established to mitigate the impact of environmental hazards while enhancing patient recovery and health, with a focus on sustainable growth as the world becomes more resilient. Notably, its implementation is still in its infancy in India, where most attention is focused on operational efficiency, such as waste management and energy reduction. The contribution of medical professionals to the development and implementation of these practices remains little understood.

The booming healthcare industry in Jalandhar makes it a great case study for researching the adoption of green hospitals. This study Investigate the opinions and attitudes of medical professionals in Jalandhar to identify the opportunities

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and obstacles that exist for promoting sustainable practices. The study addresses the existing gap in this context by exploring the discussion surrounding institutional sustainability objectives.

The research will offer valuable insights regarding the existing level of understanding and awareness of Green Hospitals among healthcare professionals in Jalandhar.

A. Research Gap

There has been considerable research on the operational and environmental advantages of green hospitals, but relatively little on how the attitudes and views of healthcare workers influence the uptake and effectiveness of green hospital practices. Given that healthcare workers are essential to the adoption and advancement of sustainable practices and that their views have a direct impact on organizational results, this disparity is noteworthy to undertake.

B. Research Objectives

- To assess the perceptions of healthcare professionals regarding the concept of green hospitals towards the implementation and practices of sustainable initiatives in health facilities.
- To identify the barriers and opportunities perceived by healthcare professionals in integrating green hospital practices and their willingness to engage in sustainability-oriented behaviours within hospital environments.

C. Relevance of the Study

This study will serve as a foundation for future research on the green building concept and environmental sustainability practices.

D. Practicability of the Study

i. Practical Implementation in Healthcare Facilities

- The adoption of sustainable waste management practices, together with energy efficiency measures and sustainable resource utilisation strategies, becomes possible for hospitals.
- Brief sustainability measures implemented during hospital construction lead to cost reductions, which establishes financial sustainability.
- The adoption of these standards requires policy changes in healthcare regulations to establish eco-friendly hospital standards.
- Enhancing Patient Care & Recovery
- A hospital space featuring green elements reduces the number of acquired infections, thereby improving patient outcomes.
- Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) Adoption
- The adoption of environmentally friendly practices by hospital staff enhances both operational efficiency and sustainability within hospital settings.
- Addressing Challenges in Implementation
- The research will produce strategic tools for hospital administrators to facilitate a smooth transition by addressing implementation challenges.
- Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- The utilisation of this research supports SDG 3 since it results in cleaner hospital environments.
- Hospital waste reduction and energy-saving actions contribute to achieving SDG 13 (Climate Action).

E. The Scope of the Study

i. Geographical Scope

The research focuses on healthcare personnel practising in Jalandhar, India.

The research includes the evaluation of medical institutions from both the public and private healthcare sectors, as well as clinic and hospital facilities.

ii. Target Population

The study targets healthcare personnel, including medical doctors, nurses, hospital managers, and paramedical workers.

The research organizes its respondents according to their occupation together with their experience duration and working institution type.

F. Conceptual Scope

i. Awareness Level

Healthcare professionals understand the extent to which they are familiar with green hospital concepts.

Healthcare personnel can acquire information about green hospitals through various methods, including educational programs, official regulations, media resources, industry-centred meetings, and conferences.

ii. Perception & Attitude

Healthcare workers recognise the numerous benefits of green hospitals, which encompass environmental advantages in addition to positive impacts on patient health and operational efficiency. The hospital staff encounters various obstacles that prevent them from adopting green hospital practices, despite showing a willingness to introduce environmental practices into their facilities.

iii. Current Practices & Policies

Assessment of Existing Green Hospital Initiatives in Jalandhar.

Role of hospital administration in sustainability and eco-friendly policies.

G. Methodological Scope

The research design will combine quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews or focus group methods.

The data collection process involves questionnaires with a structured format using both online and offline surveys.

H. Limitations

The investigation focuses exclusively on Jalandhar, yielding results that may not apply to other areas.

Subject reactions are potentially affected by both individual past experiences and organizational guidelines.

Professional background and educational experience determine how healthcare professionals are aware of the study's topic.

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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Suwasono, E., Suman, A., Soemarno, & Yanuwiadi, B. (2013) [9], examined the correlation between the management of non-medical waste in hospitals and patients' comfort and satisfaction, and assessed the effect of the Green Hospital concept on these factors. It was discovered that non-medical waste management has a positive impact on patients' satisfaction, with several key indicators including waste sorting, waste containers, and waste collection. It was found that hospitals' efforts in waste management towards a green environment had significantly improved the patients' recovery process.

Also, evaluated the implementation of green hospital dimensions in teaching and private hospitals under the Tehran University of Medical Sciences. The outcome showed that hospitals achieved only 59.5% of the total possible score. "Water management" secured the lowest score, while "Environmental leadership and management" secured the highest score. Private hospitals generally scored higher than teaching hospitals. (Azar et al. 2015)

Once more, another study proposed a sustainable approach for hospital operations, focusing on the integration of Green Supply Chain Management (GSCM). His findings outlined that combining GSCM with green building principles can reduce waste while improving energy efficiency and promoting the use of recyclable materials, with the intent of enhancing both economic and environmental benefits. (Camgöz-Akdağ et al. 2016)

Some Indian hospitals have already taken bold initiatives toward environmental sustainability. An evaluation of the progress of a North Delhi tertiary care hospital in becoming a climate-friendly green hospital, based on the World Health Organization's (WHO) seven directives for climate change mitigation. It was found that the hospital implemented diverse initiatives, including switching from diesel to CNG for boilers, replacing halogen and CFL lights with LEDs, and installing solar water heating systems, while maintaining stable energy consumption despite an increased patient load. (Bharara et al. 2018)

The aim is to assess the level of environmental sustainability strategies adopted by healthcare organizations in the Coimbatore District, examine patient awareness of these strategies, identify factors affecting environmentally sustainable treatments, and measure their impact on patient satisfaction. It was evident that hospitals in Coimbatore have implemented several environmental sustainability practices, including waste management systems, energy conservation measures, and green building initiatives. Interestingly, patients were genuinely aware of these practices and contributed their quota in terms of recovery and engagement in sustainable activities. (Mushtaq, I. A. A. W., 2019)

Their work suggests that green hospitals are essential for promoting both environmental sustainability and patient well-being. The study emphasized the importance of green hospitals, with operating costs reduced, building value increased, and the recovery rate of patients improved. It ultimately resulted in reduced operating costs, increased building value, and improved patient recovery rates, while addressing the challenges of implementing sustainable practices in healthcare facilities. It was revealed that green hospitals are economical and a tool for improving energy efficiency, waste management, and indoor air quality. (Kumari. S. et al. 2020) [7]

Majeed, S. A. (2021) examined green recruitment, green training and development, green performance management, and green compensation systems, and their impact on Green Human Resource Management, with a focus on enhancing sustainable competitive advantage in hospitals. The findings revealed that hospitals applied some GHRM practices, particularly green training and development and green performance management, which positively influenced sustainable competitive advantage. Thus, there was limited awareness of GHRM practices among hospital staff, which suggested that green recruitment was not widely implemented. (Majeed, S. A. (2021) [8].

Konyaloglu, A. K., Beldek, T. (2022). Prioritised the attributes of green hospitals using the Fuzzy Analytic Network Process (F-ANP) method to determine which criteria are most important for constructing and sustaining environmentally friendly and patient-friendly hospitals. The study revealed that energy-related factors, such as the use of renewable materials, are the most crucial features, followed by waste management, patient-related factors, and indoor-related factors.
(Konyaloglu, A. K., Beldek, T. 2022),

Yuan et al. (2024) reported the Following Objectives and Findings: The study aimed to evaluate the applicability of hospital-affiliated green spaces for patient recovery, focusing on three hospitals in Harbin, China. Using the Entropy Weight Method (EWM) and Grey Relational Analysis (GRA), the research developed an evaluation system encompassing plants, space, accessibility, rehabilitation functions, and promotional and educational functions. The findings revealed that the Second Hospital had the highest applicability for patient recovery (grey correlation degree of 0.8525), while the Tumour Hospital and Fifth Hospital scored lower, indicating a need for improvement. The study concluded that hospital green spaces should integrate rehabilitation and educational functions, enhance accessibility, and offer a broader range of outdoor activities to better support patient recovery and overall well-being. (Yuan et. al (2024) [10].

III. METHODOLOGY AND DISCUSSION

A. Survey

A structured questionnaire was distributed to 110 healthcare professionals across hospitals in Jalandhar. The survey utilized demographic data, perceptions of green hospital practices, level of awareness, and perceived barriers.

- **Sampling Method:** Purposive sampling.
- **Data Collection Tool:** In-person distribution and Google Forms were used.

i. *Focus Groups:* Three major groups were the focus, i.e., doctors, nurses, and administrators.

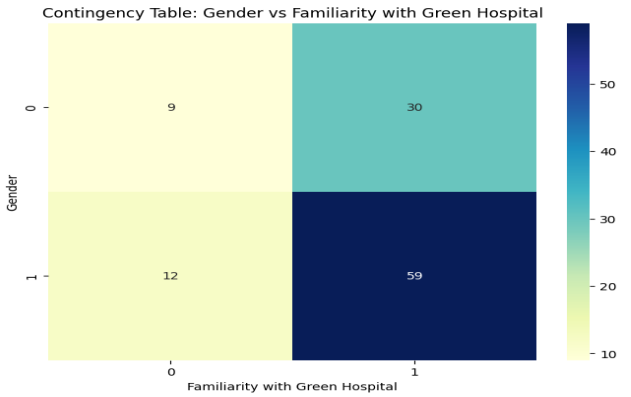
ii. *Tool:* Semi-structured discussion guides.

iii. *Analyzing the data and applying proper interpretation:*

Statistical tests that align with the nature of the data was accurately used, with a categorical nature of the data, the above analyses were performed:

B. Chi-Square Test for Independence

The chi-squared test was used to determine the critical correlation between the variables. A test was conducted to determine the relationship between gender and familiarity, with a focus on 'Green Hospital'.



[Fig.1: Gender vs Familiarity with Green Hospital]

C. Visualization Table

The above heatmap provides a clear indication of the distribution of responses across different genders and their level of familiarity with 'Green Hospital'. The numbers in the cells represent the count of responses for each category.

D. Chi-Square Test for Independence Results

- **Chi-Square Statistic ((\chi^2))**: 0.286
- **p-value**: 0.593
- **Degrees of Freedom**: 1

The p-value of 0.593 is greater than the standard significance level of 0.05, indicating that there is no statistically significant association between gender and familiarity with the term 'Green Hospital'.

IV. RESULTS ANALYSIS

Table-I: Chi-Square Test

Test	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-Sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	0.286	1	0.593

- Value: The test statistic for the chi-square test.
- Df: Degrees of freedom for the test.
- Asymptotic Significance (2-sided): The p-value indicates the probability of observing the data if the null hypothesis is true.

Table-II: Expected Frequencies

Gender	Familiar	Not Familiar
Female	13.5	3.5
Male	12.5	3.5

A. Interpretation

- The expected frequencies table shows the counts expected under the null hypothesis of no association between gender and familiarity with the term 'Green Hospital'.

B. Logistic Regression

This was used to predict the likelihood of familiarity with 'Green Hospital' based on several factors, including gender, years of experience, and age group.

- Logistic Regression Classification Report:
- Precision: The model has a precision of 0.79 for predicting familiarity with 'Green Hospital'.
- Recall: The recall is 1.00, indicating that the model correctly identifies all positive cases.
- The F1-score of 0.88 indicates a precise balance between recall and precision according to the data.

Table-III: Accuracy: The Overall Accuracy of the Model is 0.79

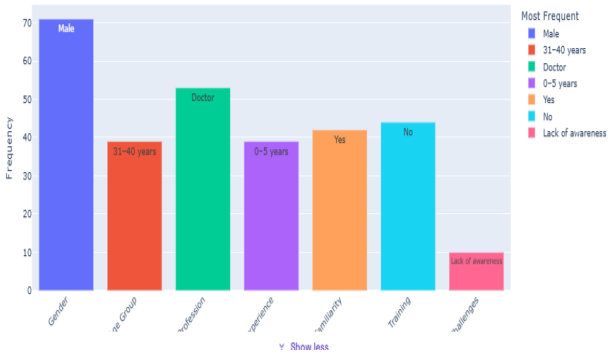
	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Support
Class 0	0	0	0	7
Class 1	0.79	1	0.88	26
Overall	0.79	0.79	0.79	33

- Interpretation

The logistic regression model exhibits a high recall for Class 1 (familiarity with 'Green Hospital'), indicating that it correctly identifies most of the positive cases. However, the precision for Class 0 is 0, suggesting the model struggles to identify those unfamiliar with the term correctly.

C. Descriptive Statistics and Visualizations

We can provide descriptive statistics and visualisations to understand the distribution of responses across different categories.



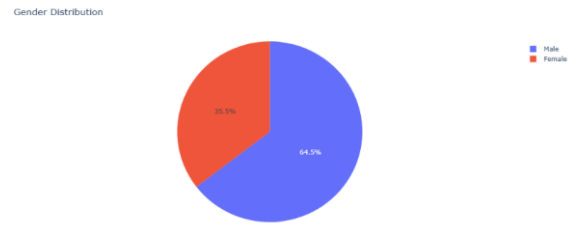
[Fig.2: Statistics and Visualization]

Table-IV: Descriptive Statistics Summary Table

Category	Most Frequent	Frequency
Gender	Male	71
Age Group	31–40 years	39
Profession	Doctor	53
Experience	0–5 years	39
Familiarity	Yes	42
Training	No	44
Challenges	Lack of awareness	10

D. Graphical Representation

- **Gender**: Most respondents are male, with 71 out of 110 responses. This indicates a male-dominated sample.

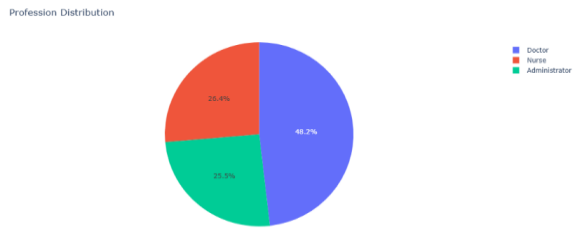


[Fig.3: Graphical Representation of Gender]

- **Age Group**: The most common age group among respondents is 31–40 years, accounting for 39 responses. This suggests that the survey primarily reached middle-aged individuals.

[Fig.4: Age Group Distribution Chart]

- **Profession**: The majority of respondents are doctors, with 53 responses. This could imply that the survey was targeted towards or more accessible to medical professionals.

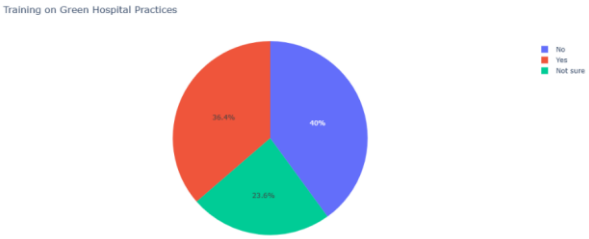


[Fig.5: Profession Distribution Chart]

- **Experience**: A greater number of respondents showed 0–5 years of experience in healthcare, with 39 responses. It did indicate a significantly young or early-career sample.

[Fig.6: Experience Distribution Chart]

- **Familiarity with 'Green Hospital'**: **42** respondents representing **38.2%** were aware of the term 'Green Hospital', as per the responses, and it did suggest a moderate level of awareness about environmental sustainability in healthcare
- **Training on Green Hospital Practices**: The majority of **44** respondents indicated that their hospital does not provide training on green hospital practices. This gives room for possible areas for sustainability improvement.



[Fig.7: Training on Green Hospital Practices]

- **Challenges in Implementing Green Hospital Practices**: Challenges in Implementing Green Hospital Practices: "Lack of awareness proved to be the most cited challenge, with 10 responses. It does suggest that increasing awareness could be a vital step in overcoming barriers to implementing green practices.

V. CONCLUSION

The research indicates that a higher proportion of healthcare professionals in Jalandhar demonstrated a significant understanding of green hospital practices. However, there is a vast difference between formal training and institutional support, with those early in their careers expressing a genuine interest in adopting sustainable practices. They felt somewhat limited by a lack of awareness and resources. The absence of structured training programs in those hospitals highlighted this menace. It is worth noting that gender had no role in green hospital concepts, suggesting that sustainability awareness transcends demographic lines. The study further highlighted that the challenge resulted from their having little to no knowledge about these practices — an indication that meaningful change often begins with education. Ultimately, the study underscores the need for more extensive consultation with healthcare professionals to inform environmental sustainability initiatives. This, indeed, is a call for collaborative efforts of various stakeholders, including educationists, leadership, and resource allocation, to build a culture where sustainability becomes a shared responsibility within hospital environments.

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DECLARATION STATEMENT

After aggregating input from all authors, I must verify the accuracy of the following information as the article's author.

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- **Data Access Statement and Material Availability:** The adequate resources of this article are publicly accessible.
- **Author's Contributions:** The authorship of this article is contributed equally to all participating individuals.

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