Ph.D. Dissertation

"International Comparative Analysis and Prognosis of the Trends in the Needs for and the Provision of Health Services"

By

Dr. Hasan Ali Mohamed Meloelain

Supervisor:
Dr. Erzsébet Gidai
Candidate of Economic Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Budapest
- 1984 -
INTRODUCTION

AIM AND METHOD OF THE DISSERTATION

A systematic approach in studies of the correlations between the needs for a health service and health care has become a fundamental requirement. In order to plan a health service to meet the actual needs, it is important first to survey and analyse these needs.

The aim of this dissertation is to establish the main factors determining the needs for health care, and to elaborate and predict the correlations with the health service. By this I wish to contribute to the more effective development of the health service, particularly in Jordan. My aim has been to attain this through a systematic attitude and an interdisciplinary approach.

In my studies on the subject, the characteristic systems in socialist, developed capitalist and developing countries have been chosen to demonstrate the changes in the health services and in the needs.

Hungary, where I have had the opportunity to carry out my research work, is a representative country with a socialist health service; the United Kingdom, Sweden, and the USA serve as the basis for characterization of the health services in developed capitalist countries; and on the example of my own country, Jordan, the important characteristics can be established in the health services in developing countries. Though I have tried as far as possible to carry out a broad international survey and to draw general conclusions, this has not been the aim of my research.
Methodologically, the dissertation has a fundamentally empirical character based on the establishment of the theoretical realtions. In this respect, the categories used /needs, care, etc./, the theoretical elucidation of the interrelations and the analyses of factual information have been supported by empirical research work and comparative studies of the statistical data, time trends and parameters, and by the elaboration of alternative prognostications.

In spite of the fact that the studies have been based mainly on conditions in Hungary, I have drawn generalizing conclusions which may be valid for other countries too, and especially for the developing world, which was one of my extremely important aims. In addition to coverage of the Hungarian, English, Arabic and German literature, analyses of time trends and intuitive prognostic methods /modelling, feed-back specialist interviews and scenarios/ have been used in my dissertation. Despite their limitations /e.g. the unfavourable effects of bias in the case of intuitive processes/, the methods can be applied for prognostication with reliability. Notwithstanding the abundance of the literature used, some of the parameters are based on inadequate data. This is particularly so for morbidity, the recording of which is scanty in many
countries. A further difficulty has been that little and often internationally not comparable information is available from developing countries such as, for example, Jordan. This is usually due to the inadequate statistical system and to the fact that data registering has no tradition in these countries.

The dissertation is divided into six sections. The first and second chapters deal with the contents of the health service, its relation to social sciences and its socio-economical definition.

The third chapter deals with the general contents of the needs, the internal and external social factors being established and systematized.

The fourth theme shows the development of health care through an analysis of the significant parameters relating to the countries mentioned above, showing the various types of organizational structure and functioning of the health systems in different countries /socialist, capitalist and developing countries/. Hungary represents the cost-free socialist health services, based on civic rights; Jordan represents the undeveloped health care systems of the third world; and the United Kingdom, Sweden and the USA exemplify three special models of the health systems of capitalist countries, namely a free system, one under state supervision, and one based on a compulsory insurance system and on the mechanism of market conditions.
The fifth theme summarizes the results of an attempted prognostication based on the correlation between the needs for a health service and health care.

The last chapter of the dissertation deals with the conclusions drawn from the studies and some ideas on the further developments in the research.

The dissertation is completed with an Appendix and literature references.

I have received great help towards my studies and my dissertation from the National Postgraduate Qualifications Board of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, which allowed me to continue my postgraduate studies and to apply for a degree in Hungary. I am grateful to the Semmelweis Medical University in Budapest, where I had the opportunity to work on my dissertation, and especially to Prof. T. Halay, who did his best to provide me with the conditions necessary for my work in his Department and by his personal assistance helped and encouraged me to complete this dissertation successfully.

I express my gratitude to Dr. E. Gidai, Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Sciences at the Semmelweis Medical University, who not only supervised my work with great competence, but through her friendly assistance and great patience helped me to overcome my professional difficulties.

I am grateful to Prof. G. Kovács of the University of Economics, from whom I obtained useful help towards the elucidation and solution of the theoretical problems of my dissertation.
I should like to express my thanks to Prof. I. Cserháti, Vice-Rector of Education, and Head of the Second Department of Internal Medicine, at the University of Medical Sciences, Szeged, who gave me maximum assistance to enable me to complete my dissertation on a social science topic and who made it possible for me to pass my specialist examination in internal medicine--cardiology. I also thank Dr. R. Imre-Baranyai, Assistant Professor at the University of Medical Sciences, Szeged, for her professional help, Dr M. Csanády, Head of the Section of Cardiology and Assistant Professor at the Second Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Medical Sciences, Szeged, who offered me great help both as a specialist and as a friend.

Last but not least, I express my grateful thanks to the members of the ESZTIK /Ministry of Health/, Dr Mehmod Sewan, my friend Khalil Zaghmouri, and all those who, through their useful advice, contributed to my completing my dissertation.