

Book Review

# A Treatise on Health Management

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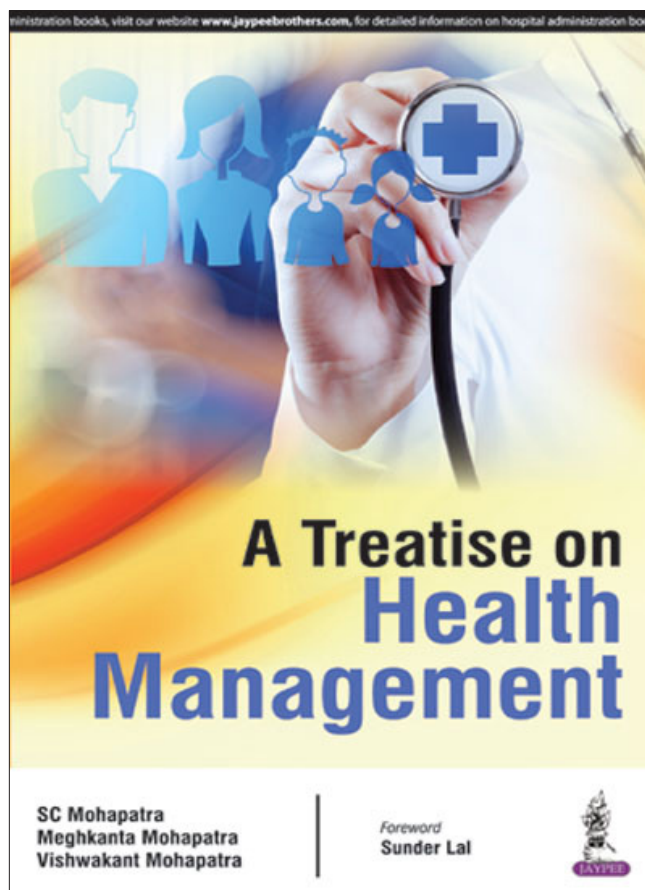
Lead author Dr. (Professor) S. C. Mohapatra is an academican par excellence in the field of community medicine and the first Indian professional to hold a degree in 'Management in Primary Health Care' (MPHC) from Liverpool, England. This much-awaited discourse; 'A Treatise on Health Management' though hit the market a little late but is indeed a fabulous gift to the medical fraternity. The twelve chapters have built up the subject pretty harmoniously. The unique content of the introductory box for each chapter and the lucid and succulent narratives with apt examples of complex issues reveals the depth and practical acumen of the authors.

A dig into Indian history highlighting the existence of well-established health care delivery system dating back to the famed Nalanda era and the revelation of the fact that there existed one primary health care facility for a population of 700, in 4<sup>th</sup>-century are eye-openers. Chapters on human resource, material, money and time management in the health sector are a must-read for all health managers small or big. A chapter on 'Management of information and decision support system' takes this endeavor a notch up the ladder.

Items of special interests are 'the Johari Awareness window' for self-development in human resource management chapter; 'techniques of direction' for managers; the concept of 'REDSTRINGS' for supervisors and the unique 'snake ladder game' to distinguish between leaders and managers are its special attractions. The author's insight into the failure of health programs in India is reveling and pertinent. Every chapter is supported by adequate references to establish and cross-check the content. The index is elaborate and helpful.

As it is already 5 years down the line since it is published, the authors should try to come up with new edition touching on some grey areas of its contents and exhibits. The contents needing a touch-up are time management and budgeting. Ontology under information management section needs more refinement. Some exhibits i.e. figure 7.1, page 235 requires colour matrix. Some tables and boxes will be better expressed in black and white or with a light 'background colour' for enhanced visibility.

If you are interested in learning the skills of health



## About Book

**Author:** S.C. Mohapatra, Meghkanta and Vishwakant Mohapatra

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management this is a must-read book. It is ideal for medical undergraduates, postgraduates, MPH and PhD students and faculties from community medicine and other health care professionals aspiring a career in the health sector. The different statutory bodies like the Medical Council of India, PHFI, and IGNOU etc. should recommend this book for their relevant subjects.

If the reader wants to acquire acumen and expertise in hospital management, hospital accreditations etc then this is not exactly their cup of tea. There are other books to refer to.