



ETYMOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIP OF HOTEL AND HOSPITAL ON THE BACKGROUND OF CORONA PANDEMIC

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Abstract: Both 'hotels' and 'hospitals' are synonymous with accommodation and healthcare sectors in the world, for over a few centuries. It is quite interesting to note that both the word had their origin from the Latin word 'hospes' which means 'facility for a visitor'. Over the centuries, both acquired their own individual distinction and focused on their respective industry sectors. Crisis and emergency situations like the current pandemic situation has resulted in an overlap of these edifices thereby making it possible for a retrospective analysis of their roots of origin. This study therefore is an attempt to focus on the etymological relationship between the two and how each of these had complemented each other over the period of time.

Keywords: Hotel, Hospital, etymological relationship

I. INTRODUCTION

World wide spread of corona pandemic in 2020 has made a devastating impact on the economic and social spheres of human life. Also, the pandemic disruption has caused millions of people on severe property and unemployment. Understanding the unprecedented pandemic situation UNWTO has declared a global emergency on January 30, 2020, which restricts travel movements of people (WHO, 2020). Also, shut down international borders, imposed travel restrictions, and advised self-isolation or quarantine to normalize or 'flatten the curve' (Nicola et al., 2020). In order to cater the increasing demand for hospital bed space, many hotels had been converted into quarantine centers, self-isolation centers all over the world by the respective governments. However, in the background of widespread coronavirus many Hotels, hostels, and other accommodation units played a key role to meet the upsurge demand for bed space.

On globally, many hotels are converted into the temporary hospital which was an accessible, easy, and much convenient asset for a quick transformation. This action has saved millions of lives by providing adequate proper hygienic treatment at right time in the right place. So This is well documented in the pre-historic time itself whenever such crises arise accommodation units would be an easy choice of conversion to provide treatments. The history shows ample evidence that can be detected from the past events on every occasion of war, calamities and epidemic spread hotels were converted into hospital. So this shows a strong bond between hotel and hospital which has a strong etological relationship.

'The English words hospital, hostel, hotel, and hospice are all etymologically related to the Latin noun *hospes*—a word having the diametric meanings a guest or visitor and one who provides lodging or entertainment for a guest or visitor' (Had A Long Day of Travel? Check Into A Hospital, n.d.). In the mid 13th century *ospital* means shelter for needy. The early records of 14th century show that the word hospital and hotel are used interchangeably in practice, as it means the rest house for the exhausted travelers. In 15th century etymological shift can be seen as the word hostel and hotel commonly refers as 'charitable institution to house and maintain needy' or

'institution for sick or wounded people' (*Online Etymology Dictionary*, n.d.). Asclepeia temples were scattered throughout ancient Rome and Greece in 600 A.D, where the practice of healing and wellness opened for pilgrims and lonely travelers. During the 4th and 5th-century people were traveled to popular pilgrimages and these shrines were associated with curing center provide free accommodation to travelers (Messler, 2014). Alarm houses in the 10th century were an early form of the hospital which provide a place of residence for poor, old, and distressed people (Caffrey, 2006). St Bartholomew's Hospital in 1326 by Henry I in the UK, Bethlem Royal Hospital founded in 1247, In Bethlehem, Palestine by emperor Constantine was once a shelter house for poor, economically backward, mentally ill, and isolated people (Thornbury, 1878). The concept of hospital and hotel in the present time is much different from the original foundation. Hospitals were the initial form of rest houses that mainly focused on the pilgrimage travelers who were great in number during medieval times. Now the concept of Hospital and hotel changed completely from its original form. 'The hospital is an integral part of the social and medical organization, the function of which is to provide for the population complete health care, both curative and preventive, and whose outpatient services reach out to the family and its home environment' (WHO, 1957). Where, Hotels are places for food and lodging normally associated with pleasure, relaxation and luxury - weddings, parties, holidays - or more mundane activities like business trips and conferences.

This study focused to evaluate the historical relationship of hotels and hospitals on the background of novel Corona pandemic. The true meaning of hotel and hospital comes into reality when such an emergency arises. So this study analyzes historical events related with hotels and hospitals in emergency time. Further, showcases how the hotel plays important role in crisis management and goes back to its true authentic meaning. Data collection for the study was done through comprehensive secondary data analysis and elaborated through mental mapping.

Hotel and Hospital in Ancient Period

The early record of history shows documented fact that hospitals ancient form can be found as early as 4000 BCE (*History of Hospital*, n.d.). The temples and religious identities were the first asylums for people who traveled for treatment. The temple of Asclepeion in the Greek and Roman eras was the primitive version of hospitals in ancient times (Messler, 2014). Asclepeions was healing god as per Greek mythology. The temples in Aesculapium on the Tiber Island were the healing centers for the sick, it not only acted as healing points but also offer shelter and food for travelers or pilgrims (Taylor & McDermott, 2013). These temples were scattered throughout Rome and Greece to cater to the need of pilgrim travelers. Even some historical records reveal that more than healing centers these temples acted as a social gathering place where people can stay and relax. Likewise, temples in Egypt also played as healing points where priests advised for healthy living, proper diet, and exercise activities to cure the diseases (Tschanz, 2017).

Thermal Water bathing spa's were famous in ancient Greek. initially, such bathing was confined to elite people in the society later its popularity increased with the curative nature, and soon public bathing centers began to emerge in 500 BC (Bender et al., 2002). Influenced from Greeks, Romans followed water therapy centers and thermal spas to rejuvenate wounded soldiers and sick people. Which later result to bring the concept of spa resorts and its popularity flourished all around Europe. The spa resorts of ancient Greek and Rome was well equipped with entertainment facilities, various type of baths, offer food and lodging (Ablin et al., 2013).

In Srilanka, Hospitals were part of large monasteries in Mihintale, Anuradhapura, Madirigiriya and Dighavapiyacan during during Anuradhapura period (377 BC to 1017 AD) (Gamage & Thilakarathna, 2018). King Pandukabhaya in 377 BC built hospitals with the consulting room, hot baths, courtyard, visitors room, and prayer room (*Surgery in an Ancient Kingdom*, n.d.). The inner corridor of Mihintale hospital complex consists of 27 residential rooms for patients (*Ancient Hospitals - Mihinthale Hospital Complex*, n.d.). Fa-hien (CE 405-411), the Chinese traveler provide details about charitable treatment centers at Pataliputra. Likewise, Hiuen Tsang (CE 629-645) visited at Harsha period also mentioned 'hospices' (punya-salas) which provide food, drink, medicine, and accommodation to the travelers and poor people. The medical development during Chola and Chera period is mentioned in ancient epigraphical records. Such treatment centers were known as

atulasalai or vaidyasalai or Satram .notably, Satrams deliver treatment and accommodation facilities for travelers free of cost(Agrawal & Goyal, 2015).

Medieval period

Medieval period has witnessed a rapid increase in hospitals and accommodation units. In addition the actual segregation of the word hospital and hotel came in the later medieval age. Christianity played a pivotal role in the development of hospitals in the medieval period. Byzantine Empire established hospitals that offer healing through salvation. In Byzantine time 'xenodochium' was the common name that denotes guesthouses and hospitals explicitly used by travelers and pilgrims(Horden, 2005). In the early era Hospitals existed in Persia known as '*Bimaristan*' which provide various kind of treatments and long-term accommodation facilities for needy(Al-Ghazal, 2007). The first Bimaristan established in Damascus by Umayyad Caliph named Al-Walid in 706 A.D. Later, this hospital network extended to Egypt, Tunisia, and Baghdad(Nowsheravi, 1983). Similarly, holy spirit hospital in Italy also connected with church was one of the ancient treatment centres in Europe(*Santo Spirito Ospedale (Rome)*, n.d.). Also, The Hôtel-Dieu established by the Bishop of Paris in 651 AD was oldest hospital in Paris which provide food and shelter for poor and sick(Radcliffe, 1989). Majorities of hospitals in the early medieval period show a strong bond of religion and treatment centers. While their prime focus was charity, providing food and shelter to the poor along with treatment.

Another form of accommodation that thrived in Europe was Almshouses in the 10th-century . Almshouse was also known as bed-house or hospital or poorhouse which provided lodging or housing facility for poor and old aged people(Bremner, 1992). In medieval Europe majority of hospitals functioned in the name of the almshouse. The majority of almshouses were attached to chapel and some of them provide specialized treatment such as mental illness. One of the largest hospital ever built in medieval period was Mansuri Hospital in Cairo , completed in 1248 AD under the rule of Mameluke ruler of Egypt, Mansur Qalaun(Springer, n.d.). No one was turned away from treatment and there was no limit to how long patients could stay so many people used this facility as a temporary stay place. However, the end of the medieval century was witnessed mushrooming of hospital culture and showed a sharp deviation from the charity. Also, accommodation units expanded their operation into more entertainment options rather than providing asylum and treatment.

Post Medieval period

Hospitals were the initial form of rest houses that mainly focused on the pilgrimage travelers who were great in number during medieval times. Despite great difficulties in transportation, pilgrimages undertook their travel to famous shrines such as St. Thomas Canterbury, this necessitated the provision of guest house and infirmary for poor pilgrims(Hill, 1969). At the end of 13th century, the genuine pilgrimage was on the decline, the rest houses and hospital filled with an increasing number of vagabonds and vagabonds who opted this for free bed and board.

The Post-Medieval period impacted the commercialization of hospitals and hotels. Therefore both the concept were separately used as per the utility. Hotels concentrated more on providing entertainment facilities for visitors by charging a fee for the facilities available. On the other hand, vast development in medical science and technology has transformed the system. As a result, hospitals become a place that provides expert treatment for patients. Even though both the term which were once originated from the same etymological root word and also once performed similar function has now completely deviated into two separate entities. Also, perform two different functions which were not interconnected at all. In nutshell, The hospital in the present is much different from the original foundation.

Nevertheless, formal distinguish was established between hotel and hospital but in many crucial phases, emergency hotels that were built purely for accommodation purposes converted into a hospital. It indicated that hotels are still used as a hospital in special circumstances such as war, the spread of the epidemic, pandemic, etc. The utility of the hotel goes back to the actual meaning when such an incidence happens.

The first world war reconnected hotels and hospitals again by converting accommodation units into hospitals as a convenient establishment to handle the increasing war casualties. Waldorf Astoria Versailles-Trianon Palace hotel in Paris was converted as an auxiliary hospital for wounded soldiers and

civilians(*Waldorfastoria*, n.d.).The Peninsula Paris is another historic luxury hotel that served as a field hospital for wounded officers in world war I(*Historic Hotels of The World*, n.d.). Tajmahal Hotel in Mumbai converted into a hospital with a 600-bed space hospital to combat the crisis(Upadhyay, 2020). Moreover many state homes in England converted as hospitals like Brighton Pavilion, Highclere Castle, Dunham Massey Hall, etc. After the first world war during the time of Spanish flu, several hotels were used as temporary treatment centers and self-isolation units.

The second world war was another important milestone in history where hotels are massively converted into first-line treatment centres. The Hydro Majestic is one of the first electrified hotels in Australia, the highest luxury of the country converted into a war hospital In July 1942(*History of Hydromajestic*, n.d.). US Navy acquired The Yosemite Luxurious Ahwahnee Hotel in 1942, a 37-acre hotel with swimming pool, tennis and croquet courts, and other costly amenities then converted it into a hospital to treat soldiers during world war two especially those who suffered mental depression(Janiskee, 2010). Further, The Breakers Hotel Florida luxurious hotel opened in 1896 with a 425 room four-storied building, converted into a hospital during the second world war(*U.S. Military in Palm Beach*, n.d.). The US Army purchased the El Mirador Hotel in July 1942 and rebuilt the 139 acre property into 1600-bed general hospital(*Historic California Posts, Camps, Stations and Airfields Torney General Hospital*, n.d.). A year later, in 1943, the Army transferred the hospital to the Army Air Forces and Renamed the hospital as Torney Hospital. The Miami Biltmore Hotel, USA is a luxury hotel in Coral Gables, Florida, United States which took over by US Army, converting it to a 1200-bed hospital in November 1942 and renamed as Pratt General Hospital(*Miami VA Healthcare System*, n.d.). There are hundreds of examples that showcase the conversion of the hotel into the hospital during an emergency crisis.

On the Background of Novel Corona Virus Covid -19

Many hotels across the globe converted to quarantine centers or even set up as hospitals to treat patients due to the outbreak of novel coronavirus pandemics. The virus first exposed in Wuhan, China in 2019 December later it started to spread all over the world.WHO (World Health Organisation) announced a medical emergency and countries imposed travel restrictions due to the immediate surge in corona cases. The toughest task of the government was to arrange bed space for the burgeoning number of patients. The shortage of hospital beds was the greatest challenge even for the developed countries like America and Italy. The statistics show that America has 2.8 hospital beds for 1000 people, Italy has 3.2 beds per 1,000 people, China has 4.3, France 4.5, South Korea has 12.3, and Japan has the most at 13.1 per 1,000 people(*Hospital Bed Shortage Poses Great Challenge for US Medical System amid COVID-19 Outbreak*, 2020). As per the national health profile-2019, India only has 0.55 over 1000 people (Ghosh et al., 2020). The bed availability of 12 states in India stood below the national average(Ray et al., 2020). So the infrastructural condition of many countries to defeat the pandemic were pathetic. The easy infrastructural option available was the hotel and other accommodation units. So many countries temporarily transformed hotels into hospitals during the pandemic time.

The hotel association of Madrid, Spain offered 40 hotels to increase 9000-bed space to treat corona-affected people(*Madrid Hotel Transformed into Coronavirus Hospital*, 2020). Gran Hotel Colon in Madrid , Marriot Auditorium,The Melia Sarria , and Hotels in Barcelona converted to provide medical assistance and to ease the pressure on increasing bed occupancies. Also, in United Kingdom many famous hotels such as Best Western Hotel in the London,The London Hotel Group ,Croydon hotel, Holiday Inn Heathrow Ariel hotel converted into quarantine and medical wards. China converted many hotels , convention centers even sports stadiums to host increasing demand of treatment infrastructure . In Indian many hotel groups cooperated with the government to face the pandemic situation hotels such as Accor, Hyatt, Radisson Hotels and Inter Continental Hotels Group, IHCL-owned Taj Mansingh Hotel and many other hotel chains joined. Indian railway converted trains couches for treating corona patients and providing quarantine facilities.Developed countries like U.S, Germany, and France adopted this strategy to provide proper treatment facilities. As per the official report, more than 16000 hotels registered under the American Hotel and Lodging Association volunteered to support the health system in the United States(*How Hotels Are Supporting Healthcare Workers During COVID-19*, n.d.).

II. CONCLUSION

This study has revealed the relationship between the terms 'hotel' and 'hospital' and how these have become interchangeable at required times. Hotels regain its true etymological meaning again to face such an emergency crisis. History proves inseparable characteristics of hotel and hospital through different crisis situation. This study is a historical research approach which describe important timelines when hotel converted as treatment centers. Whenever an emergency occurs hotel could be the trustworthy infrastructure to manage such urgent situations. The current pandemic situation has also shown to world that accommodation options can act as health care establishments also when required. This paper will also kindle interest in further research in different dimensions this area.

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