

TO

ALMIGHTY, OMNIPRESENT & MERCYFUL GOD,

MY PARENTS, WIFE & BABY KALPA SHIKHA

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEMS ANALYSIS & DESIGN
IN HEALTH CARE PLANNING

by
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CERTIFICATE

Certified that the thesis entitled, "Socio-Economic Systems Analysis and Design in Health Care Planning", which is being submitted by Mr. L.C. Agarwal for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, is a record of the student's own work carried out by him under my supervision and guidance.

The matter embodied in this thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree.

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ABSTRACT

Lately systems engineers and operations researchers have been actively engaged in modelling large scale socio-economic systems such as the economic , educational, transportation, health care, military, communication systems, etc., which together constitute the environmental system in which man lives. With the inherent complexities involved in these systems, a multi-dimensional systems approach has become mandatory. The research in this thesis is particularly directed at investigating the problems associated with one of the important societal service systems, namely, the community health care delivery system.

Certain basic concepts and postulates of physical systems modelling theory have been suitably generalized to encompass modelling and analysis of a variety of socio-economic systems, which can be represented symbolically in terms of discrete components* and their interconnections. In the present research an effort has been made for its further appropriate generalization and extension to health service system, referred to above, with a view to incorporating spatial, structural and dynamic aspects in modelling, analysis and predictive applications.

A community health care delivery system has been viewed as a triad of health need, demand and resources in terms of a network theory based physical systems modelling framework, which

* Recent advances in physical system theory have begun to extend its scope of application to systems and components which are characterized by continuum in space.

applies a component-to-system formulation approach. A real-life health service system for the IIT Delhi community serves as the backdrop against which the dynamic systems modelling and simulation in the thesis proceed at both conceptual as well as operational stages of research investigation.

Quite frequently the policy makers and health administrators for community health organizations, in the absence of an integrated systems approach, are confronted with resource deployment problems pertaining to duplication of resources, ineffective location of facilities and inefficient use of personnel etc. Since the health-care systems are generally faced with greater demand than they can satisfy, it is of vital importance to allocate the available resources in an optimally health-effective manner. A comprehensive approach to health planning must be based on the total macrocosm of the community in which an individual lives-the myriad of activities that are initiated when an individual seeks to improve his health-rather than on his health and use of available health services.

Since socio-economic systems, such as real-life community health care system, are profoundly influenced by social, administrative and human decisions of probabilistic nature, complete behaviour of such systems often cannot be described adequately by a deterministic model. A recourse is therefore taken to the component-to-system modelling construct of physical system theory to develop and empirically implement a stochastic system

model of health care delivery. The health service system is identified in our study as an aggregate of interconnected components with each component modelled in terms of two complementary variables - a through-variable Y , representing the flow of "patients" and an across-variable X , representing their per unit values. Identified components are modelled, atleast conceptually in isolation. From the component terminal equations and their inter-connection pattern a state model for the system is developed which describes the dynamics of the patient flow-volumes in four health states as well as their associated per unit values.

The empirical exercises of calibration, validation and prediction on behalf of the models are carried out in the specific context of the resident community and sickbay in I.I.T. Estate at a level of disaggregation corresponding to 13 population sub-groups and four patient health states for both deterministic as well as stochastic representation. A computer-aided methodology for health-care system planning through 'optimal' health-effective resource allocation strategy is suitably illustrated.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		<u>Page No.</u>
Certificate	...	... (i)
Acknowledgements	...	... (ii)
Table of Contents	...	...(iii)
Abstract	...	... (vii)
Notations	...	... (x)
<u>CHAPTER-I</u>	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	... 1
1.1	The Problem of Health Resources Planning	... 1
1.2	Systems Philosophy	... 2
1.3	General Systems Theory	... 8
1.4	An Interdisciplinary Physical Systems Modelling Theory	... 15
1.5	Pertinent Literature Survey of Research Activity in the Area of Community Health Care Delivery Systems	... 28
1.6	Scope of the Thesis	... 33
<u>CHAPTER-II</u>	<u>DETERMINISTIC PHYSICAL SYSTEMS MODELLING FRAMEWORK.</u>	... 37
2.1	Introduction	... 37
2.2	Related Concepts	... 40
2.2.1	Demographic Classification of the IIT Population	... 40
2.2.2	Patient Health State Concept	... 42
2.3	Deterministic Component Models	... 45
2.4	System Graph And Constraint Equations	... 61
2.5	The System State-Model	... 64

<u>CHAPTER-III</u>	<u>EMPIRICAL PARAMETERIZATION - DETERMINISTIC STATE MODELS</u>	...	69
3.1	Choice of Subcategories of I.I.T.Delhi Population, Base Year, Unit Period and Patient Health States.	...	69
3.2	Empirical Identification of various Component Model Parameter Matrices	...	71
3.3	Additional Processing of Data for Empirical Implementation of the Across Variable System State Model	...	78
3.4	Empirical Implementation of System State Model	...	83
3.5	Discussion of System Model Results	...	84
<u>CHAPTER-IV</u>	<u>HEALTH CARE SYSTEM PLANNING: A STATE MODEL SIMULATION APPROACH</u>	...	88
4.1	Introduction	...	88
4.2	Community Health Resource-Measures	...	90
4.3	Health Effectiveness Objective Function	...	91
4.4	Approximate Analysis of the Proposed Objective Function	...	97
4.5	Linear Programming Problem	...	101
4.6	Empirical Implementation	...	104
4.7	Concluding Remarks	...	109
<u>CHAPTER-V</u>	<u>STOCHASTIC MODELLING OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM</u>	...	110
5.1	Introduction	...	110
5.2	Stochastic System Modelling	...	111
5.3	Stochastic Component to System Modelling Construct of a Real-life Health Care System	...	113

5.4	Stochastic Component Models	...	115
5.5	System Graph and Constraints	...	122
5.6	Stochastic System State Model	...	123
5.7	Estimation of System Parameters	...	128
5.7.1	State And Parameter Estimation using Kalman Filtering	...	129
5.8	State Estimation and Prediction Algorithms	...	131
5.9	Concluding Remarks	...	136
<u>CHAPTER-VI</u>	<u>EMPIRICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STOCHASTIC THROUGH-VARIABLE SYSTEM STATE-MODEL</u>	...	137
6.1	Identification of Dynamic Components	...	137
6.2	Identification of Algebraic Components	...	143
6.3	Empirical Implementation of Stochastic Flow System Model	...	149
6.4	The Through-Variable Stochastic System Model-Some Comments.	...	152
<u>CHAPTER-VII</u>	<u>CONCLUSION</u>	...	154
7.1	Research Perspective	...	154
7.2	Research Contributions	...	155
7.3	Discussion of Highlights of Results	...	157
7.4	Further Avenues of Research	...	164
<u>REFERENCES</u>	...	...	R.1
APPENDIX-A	...	...	A.1
APPENDIX-B	...	...	B.1
APPENDIX-C	...	...	C.1

APPENDIX-D	...	... D.1
APPENDIX-X	...	... X.1
APPENDIX-Y	...	... Y.1
APPENDIX-Z	...	... Z.1
Publications	...	...
Curriculum Vitae	...	...