



Chapter VI

Case Study in Globalization of Hospitals

In this chapter we discuss:

- The practical application of the entire GET process to a hospital
- How to transition this hypothetical hospital NSH to a Global Hospital
- A demonstration of how a consulting organization can handle the process of GET as it is applied to NSH, the hospital.

Importance of Tele-Health

This chapter demonstrates the application of the GET process in the area of Tele-health, to a hospital. The reason for selecting the domain of Tele-health for this exercise is significant. In the modern communication age, there are still many situations where people who are in pain and/or have an acute need for help have to travel hundreds of miles just to be close to a physician or a healthcare specialist. This scenario is exacerbated by overworked physicians and surgeons, and ever shrinking funds for health care from governments and other funding bodies. Thus the need for, and the value of, being able to provide medical facilities and support by utilizing technology is at its highest leading us

to believe in the extreme importance of Tele-health in today's world. Tele-health is all about the use of technology to ease the ability to provide medical care beyond physical distances, especially in rural areas. Tele-health is also about alleviating the routine pressures on doctors beyond the needs of their own specialist or generalist skills. Tele-health goes further beyond patients and doctors, and also involves education, research and administration in the field of medicine. Given this tremendous importance of Tele-health, it is appropriate that the concepts of globalization discussed in this book, in all its previous chapters, are applied to a case study that deals with a hospital. In this chapter, we have appropriately considered the area of hospital management and patient access to care, in demonstrating the concepts of the GET process, as applied to a hospital. Needless to say, this remains a relatively small part of the overall effort required in globalizing a hospital. Nonetheless, we believe this is an excellent demonstration of most of the concepts discussed here. This chapter results from our attempts at verifying in practice the principles discussed in this book. Therefore, although the entire case study is hypothetical, it has its roots in a real life hospital, with real doctors, nurses, administrative staff, and of course, real patients. By considering the application of GET to Tele-health, we hope we will not only demonstrate the process to our readers, but also show how this process will come in handy in the health domain where globalization is going to become extremely important.

Case Study Statement

North-South Hospital (NSH) is a small hospital of about ten beds, with limited medical infrastructure, but extremely high niche expertise. It is located in one of the medium-sized cities in a developing nation, providing healthcare services. It is owned by a family (the husband being a renowned cardio-thoracic surgeon providing specialization in heart diseases and the wife, an internationally acclaimed neuro-physician, providing highly specialized treatment of neuro diseases). The hospital has no second-tier doctors and it operates on a skeleton staff of three to four nurses, a receptionist and an attendant who lives on the premises. The nurses operate on a roster basis, which means at any given time the hospital would have only two nurses available. Currently, NSH has a basic "informative" Web site that provides a brief profile of the hospital, its address, phone number and the contact details. The Web site does not have the ability to carry out any transactions at all, and does not have any links to other relevant

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