

**RURAL DISTRICT
HOSPITAL
NYAMIRA — KISII**

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1.1 ABSTRACT

From my study of a rural District Hospital at Nyamira, an idea was established in my mind as a system which handles various categories of people ranging from patients, patients' escort, visitors, emergencies, hospital staff and hospital service staff.

For this reason, it functions as an educational centre, curative centre, and a service centre for health institutions in its catchment area. It handles 600 to 900 persons per day. Most of these people end up in the out-patient department which serves as a filter clinic. The remaining few are referred to diagnostic and treatment departments whereas those who need hospital nursing are admitted to the in-patient department.

The main objective was to keep the layout of units as compact as possible in order to reduce the time spent by both patients and staff walking from one section to another. In this case the out-patient was sited near the main entrance to the hospital for ease of access. The nursing units could not be compacted so much because this would involve air-conditioning which is expensive to instal and maintain. Instead courtyards between units for ventilation and light have been provided.

The degree of compaction has been achieved by placing those departments with heavy inter-traffic between them nearer to each other e.g. surgical units, maternity are close to operation theatre. Units with similar functions have also been grouped together e.g. surgical wards, medical wards.

The internal hospital circulation does not allow separate flows, but staff and central supplies are concentrated onto the main communication corridor which includes engineering services as well.

The site slope of 5° has limited the spread of my buildings up and down the slope, but on the other hand it has enabled me to have all my service departments under the wards. The nursing units are on that same level as the x-ray and operation theatre for ease of movement.

This hospital is located in an agricultural area with quite a good amount of rain and solar radiation. The materials and finishes should be able to stand rough treatment. The floors should be washed at least once a day in order to maintain the standard of cleanliness.

Finally, the compaction of a rural district hospital does not necessarily mean pushing buildings close to each other but the location of departments in such a way that those with higher inter-traffic are close to each other. By so doing you have achieved the same thing you could have achieved and that is reduction of time for movement.