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CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Organization: St. Judes India
Website: https://www.stjudechild.org/

Mission

St. Judes aim is to provide clean, safe and cost free accommodation to children and their accompanying relatives coming from small villages and distant towns who are undergoing treatment for chronic diseases in metro cities of India.

Context

St. Judes provides accommodation (St. Jude India ChildCare Centres) & holistic support to children travelling with their parents/relatives for treatment from villages & small towns to cities. With the aim to provide a home away from home for the children undergoing chronic treatment, St. Jude India Child Care Centres (St. Judes or SJICC) focus on providing the below basic needs :
• 	Safe & hygienic housing
• 	Transport to & from treatment
• 	Cooking facilities & nutritious rations
• 	Value based education
• 	Recreation
• 	Counselling for children & parents

Each center has a team that works to guarantee daily routines. Heading the center, is the center manager who is supported by a center officer, teachers, and an activity coordinator for the parents. Additionally, there are housekeeping staff who ensure the cleanliness of the centers, and van drivers who are responsible for getting families to and from the hospital for treatments. Trained counselors are also available to guide and support the young patients and their parents.

After the initial diagnosis, the families stay at SJCC for around 6-8 months and return every 2-3 months for a few days. This cycle goes on for about 3 years. A typical SJCC centre can host minimum 24 beds and has a storage unit attached. Each floor has community hall, family units with 1 bed, common kitchen and bathroom cleaned 2-3 times/day. During room allocation, returning families are given priority.

All the rations for a particular centre are dispersed from a vendor. Each centre has its own store where they store rations depending on the number of families through a supplier. There's a vendor for a rudimentary inventory management system. First time families are given 'One time kit' which includes utensils, daily necessities like soaps, brushes, etc. and rations like oil, lentils, rice, wheat, spices etc. After the one time kit, all the families are given 'Weekly replenshing kit' for additional necessities on a weekly basis . Store keeps 1-2 extra ration kits. For returning short term visits – 1-3 days' worth of ration are given. They also provide 'Exit kit' which has ration for 1-2 months when they are leaving.

SJICC is currently spread across 9 cities with 38 centers with capacity to provide for 475 families at once, with the vision to expand this to 1000 units in a couple of years.

Challenge

The vendor sends ration kits or sometimes even sends ration in bulk packets. The volunteers at the centre divide it in kits to give to the families. Currently, the amount of ration ordered and distributed to each family is recorded manually. The organization is now looking to automate their inventory management system that will track all the rations bought into the Centre, dispersed and utilized across all the SJCC storage units.

The challenge is to create a system that will track atleast the following:

1. All the rations bought into the SJCC Storage Centre
2. Rations distributed to families
3. Rations kept in storage
4. Rations utilized by a particular family

Example for ration distribution:

If there are 25 kgs rice, 100 packets of daal (500 gm each), 5 kgs of haldi in packing of 50 gm and 100 packets of washing powder (1kg each) in the storage unit of a SJCC.

If Family A (first - timer), after the initial kit takes 2 kgs rice, 1 packet daal and 1 packet washing powder. Then the system should log the following quantities for Family A:
Rice : initial quantity + 2
Daal : initial quantity + 1
Washing Powder : initial quantity + 1

Additional Considerations

- Think of how the work of the volunteers can be minimized while logging inventory into the system.
- Ease of updating the initial quantities of the ration/necessities in the kits given to families.
- Each family is given a patient ID card which contains a QR code carrying all the patient details. Think if we can leverage that QR code to make inventory logging easier
- Reports and Statistics for the SJCC NGO members for decision making

Technology Baseline

- The organization actively uses Google-suite for certain data Maintenance.
- Mobile apps and IVR (Interactive Voice Response) has been used for beneficiary tracking and gathering feedback.
- Since 2014, MIS (Management Information System) has been used for patient data collection.