Preface

Healthcare systems, considered an integral part of the socio-economic system of any country, need continuous evaluation and improvement because of their fast-changing technological and resource management systems. In addition to improving its clinical performance as well as overall health condition for well-being of the people, a healthcare system has to meet a number of, often conflicting, operational objectives, such as minimizing the cost of healthcare, maximizing the utilization of physical and human resources, and improving the timeliness of service to the patients. The book addresses the major issues, principles and applications related to healthcare systems management.

This book is a comprehensive text on the Proceedings of the International Conference on Management of Ergonomic Design, Industrial Safety and Healthcare Systems (MESH-2016) held at Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, India, during December 20–23, 2016. It is self-contained and the subject matter is presented in an organized and systematic manner. Each chapter in this book consists of a concise but thorough fundamental statement of introduction, methodology and findings followed by results and discussion. The concepts and case studies as presented in the book pertain to the prevailing situations and conditions in Asian countries and their perspectives.

This book is quite appropriate for graduate students, researchers and industrial professionals and can be adapted for a short professional course on the subject matter as well. It is hoped that design and research engineers, willing to learn mathematical models for analytical and design purposes, will be immensely benefited. Also, practicing engineers and managers who want to learn about the basic principles and concepts as applicable to healthcare systems will find the book quite informative and valuable.

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