

# Marketing Strategy Analysis Based on Segmenting and Targeting in Hospital: A literature review

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## Marketing Strategy Analysis Based on Segmenting and Targeting in Hospital: A literature review

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### Abstract

**Background:** Healthcare services have undergone changes in several strategic business units that require proper management handling. The evolution of hospitals, accompanied by the high demands of the community for services, has led hospitals to compete in seeking new opportunities and strategies to meet consumer (patient) needs. In an effort to meet consumer expectations and desires, hospitals need to design a marketing mix that provides value to the target consumers. Management planning serves the target market based on hospital market segmentation.

**Purpose:** To define the analysis of healthcare service market segments in a manner that supports the marketing process in hospitals

**Method:** This study is a literature review. The research data sources were derived from literature obtained via the internet, including scientific research findings from various sources. The population in this study consisted of research focusing on the assessment of hospital market segmentation from 2015 to 2022. A total of 12 research articles were obtained from scholarly publications such as Science Direct, Scopus, ProQuest, Springer Link, Google Scholar, PubMed, JSTOR, and Emerald Insight. The collected data were then systematically analyzed.

**Results:** This result revealed that a marketing strategy employing segmentation concepts, supported by an appropriate marketing mix, was an effective means to enhance healthcare services according to customer needs

**Conclusion:** This study concluded that hospital market segmentation analysis, based on geographic, demographic, psychographic, and behavioral factors and supported by an appropriate marketing mix, was an effective means to improve healthcare services according to customer needs.

**Keywords:** Demographic; Geographic; Hospital; Market Segmentation; Psychographic.

### INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) states that a hospital is an integral social and medical organization that functions to provide comprehensive healthcare services to the public, encompassing both curative and preventive aspects (Ayuba, Mohamad, & Lolo, 2021). According to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 44 of 2009, a hospital is defined as a health care institution that provides comprehensive individual health services (including promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative services) by offering inpatient, outpatient, and

emergency care (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020).

Hospital healthcare services have evolved into business entities with several strategic business units requiring appropriate management concepts. Changes in the external healthcare environment involve market analysis and consideration of the hospital's surrounding environment. Market segmentation analysis is crucial as it provides information about what patients need when utilizing hospital services. It also aids in understanding the

needs and expectations of patients regarding the services received at the hospital (Nursa, Hardisman, & Semiarty, 2019)

The development of hospitals, coupled with high social service demands, has led hospitals to compete to create new opportunities and strategies to meet societal needs and become the preferred choice for certain groups (Mamo & Sulistiadi, 2022). Resource limitations in terms of human resources, finances, facilities, and infrastructure necessitate hospitals to target specific audiences with their premium products or services. The regulations developed become more comprehensive and specific as a result of hospital marketing strategies, aiming to be clearer and more targeted (Napitupulu, Carolina, & Rahmawati, 2018).

The expectations and desires of hospital consumers require the design of a marketing mix that provides the desired value to the intended consumers. Marketing revolves around creating customer value and beneficial customer relationships. Company marketing strategies aim to create value for customers and generate profitable customer relationships, all based on marketing logic (Kotler & Armstrong, 2010; Tjiptono, 2019).

Marketing strategy revolves around two main questions: Which customers do we serve (segmentation and targeting) and how do we create added value for them (differentiation and positioning)? The decision on how to serve these target markets is based on segmentation, targeting, and positioning (Kotler & Keller, 2012). Targeting involves selecting one or more market segments to enter.

Efforts of a company to maintain its products effectively positioned to serve the target market segments are through market segmentation. Market segmentation divides the market into several groups, each with its unique characteristics. Market segments consist of a group of consumers with similar needs and desires (Munandar, 2017). Marketers identify the right number and nature of each market segment and decide on the consumer market to target (Munandar, 2017; Tae, Hariyanti, & Rasyid, 2017).

Market segmentation is conducted by considering market characteristics that can influence consumer behavior in utilizing hospital services. Key factors influencing consumer decision-making include

psychological factors such as perception, motivation, learning, attitudes, and personality; situational factors such as facilities and infrastructure, time, product usage, and purchase conditions; and social factors affecting purchase decisions (Rochmiati, Suryawati, & Shaluhayah, 2021). Market segmentation analysis can be evaluated through respondent characteristics in terms of demographics, geography, psychographics, and behavior (Ahmadi & Herlina, 2017).

Essentially, market segmentation is a way of dividing the market according to several customer characteristics, typically classified into four: geographic, demographic, psychographic, and behavioral. This segmentation strategy can be developed based on a consumer-centric marketing management philosophy (Lova & Achadi, 2022). Market segmentation divides the market into customer groups with similar behaviors or needs. Each group is chosen as a target group to be reached with different marketing strategies. Hospitals do this to provide the best service to customers, enhancing customer perceptions and securing a strong position in their minds. Hence, hospitals require well-documented segment analyses.

A previous segment analysis based on market segment characteristics at the Islamic Hospital Faisal Makassar was divided into three segments: Hospital Aversion (34.3%), Hospital Care Minimizer (2.0%), and Hospital Care Maximizer (64.6%). These segments exhibited 10 different characteristics among them, including age, education level, occupation, family size, residence, residence status, motivation, health utilization patterns for mild and moderate illnesses, and hospital utilization intensity. Based on the above description, the goal of this literature review is to define the analysis of healthcare service market segments in a manner that supports the marketing process in hospitals.

## METHOD

1 This study is a literature review. Literature Review is a method of studying a specific topic that emphasizes a single question systematically identified, evaluated, selected, and concluded based on predefined criteria and high-quality standards. The research data sources were derived from literature obtained via the internet, including scientific research findings from various sources. Data

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Table 1. Analysis of the Research Articles

Author/ Year of Publication	Method	Results
Nursa, Hardisman, & Semiarty (2019)	The research utilizes a mixed-method approach involving both quantitative and qualitative methods.	3 The demographic segmentation of patients shows an average age of thirty-eight years with a variation of 15.53 years. The majority of customers are women (63.1%), have completed high school education (49.5%), are students (27.2%), earn less than two million per month (60.2%), and are 3 married (59.2%). Psychographic segmentation indicates that customers primarily acquire information through friends/family (58.3%). Behavioral segmentation indicates that the majority of customers have visited the hospital in the last three to six months (41.7%) with a frequency of more than four times (40.8%) and use insurance (87.4%).
Munandar (2017)	An analytic descriptive study using both qualitative and quantitative approaches.	Demographic segmentation: majority aged >60 years (70.7%), male gender (56%), occupation as Homemaker (36.6%). Geographic segmentation: Margacinta District (36.6%). Psychographic segmentation: social class and lifestyle in accordance with their perceptions.
Kusumasitii, Harjayanti, & Haryanti (2017)	Descriptive research	Demographic segmentation: majority are female (84%), married (82%), monthly income between 300,000-1,000,000 (48%), occupation as a homemaker (61%), majority of Javanese ethnicity (97%), highest education level is elementary school (37%), and Islamic religion (100%). Psychographic segmentation: majority are general patients (61%). Geographic segmentation: Bululawang District (25%), Gondanglegi District (22%), and Bantur District (10%). Behavioral segmentation: majority of patients choose third-class care (65.7%).
Ningsih & Marwati (2023)	Qualitative descriptive research	Demographic segmentation: 2 reproductive-age women with lower to middle-level education. Geographic segmentation is divided into four areas: Segment 1 within a radius of 0-10 km, Segment 2 within a radius of 11-20 km, Segment 3 within a radius of 21-30 km, and Segment 4 beyond a radius of 30 km. Psychographic segmentation: private employees using personal payment methods.

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AS, Arfin, & Marzuki(2020)	Quantitative research with a descriptive survey approach	Demographic segmentation: mostly adults (26-45 years old), with a higher level of education, predominantly female, patients who are not employed (homemakers with low income), and have a moderate-sized family. Behavioral segmentation: patients tend to seek treatment at the hospital when experiencing severe illness, whereas for mild ailments, they purchase medicine at the nearest pharmacy. Psychographic segmentation: characterized by high motivation and perception. Geographic segmentation: owning their own residence in the city of Medan.
Tae, Hariyanti, & Rasyid (2017)	The study was conducted with a cross-sectional design.	Demographic segmentation: majority are female (75%), homeowners (20%), homemakers (38%), aged 26-35 years (31%), Moslem (69%), with an income of Rp. 1,000,000 - Rp. 2,000,000 (39%). Behavioral segmentation: patients choose to seek treatment at the hospital if they require inpatient care.
Eirol, & Fortenberry, (2018)	Qualitative, case study	The Willis-Knighton Healthcare System identifies, in its efforts to capture a market share in pediatric healthcare services, a significant potential lies in influencing parental decisions. This involves targeting a unique approach to persuade children as direct recipients of healthcare services. Evaluation of the child healthcare protection process also takes place. As evidenced by targeted marketing pursuits of competitors, parents represent a clear target for medical services as they play a decisive role in utilizing healthcare services.
Maulana (2020)	Mixed-method research approach involving both quantitative and qualitative methods	It shows that the potential for the cardiac health business in Jakarta remains very high, with a market attractiveness value of 61.5, and the competitive position value of Hospital XYZ is 59.8. The portfolio analysis results indicate that the chosen strategy that can be implemented by Hospital XYZ is an offensive strategy, selecting core strategy IA: growing market share, and core strategy ID: expanding market demand.
Ni'matunnisa (2022)	Descriptive research	The dominant result of market segmentation is service-related. It's known that many consumers switch healthcare providers due to service-related issues. Price and quality sometimes come second after service. Recognizing this, market segmentation is carried out

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to focus on providing service directed towards its market. The form of service provided by the company, in this case, the hospital, involves offering comfortable waiting room facilities. This service is also intended to attract consumer attention..

Lisdiyanti, Nursyifa, Mutamima, Yuanita, & Marini (2019)	Quantitative withanalytical survey method	Demographic segmentation revealed details regarding customer income ranging from Rp. 3,800,000 to Rp. 10,000,000, as well as customer type groups (insured/uninsured). Psychographic segmentation, differing social classes and lifestyles, exhibit distinct psychographic characteristics.
Ariani & Ilyas (2021)	Quantitative research with a descriptive survey approach	Segmentation analysis divided into geographical segmentation (urban areas), demographic segmentation (productive age, male, highly educated, and employed), and behavioral segmentation (making payments using personal funds). The target based on segmentation is patients aged 18-40 years, as this productive age group most frequently visits dental clinics..
Wahyuni (2019)	Quantitative research with a descriptive survey approach	Segmentation analysis is divided into geographical segmentation (rural areas), demographic segmentation (productive age, female, low education, and employed), and psychographic segmentation (preferring third-class services due to proximity to home). Regarding targeting, this hospital doesn't set specific targets as it caters to services from Class III to VIP..

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### Behavioral Segmentation

Behavioral segmentation is one market segment consisting of knowledge, attitude, usage, or consumer response to a product. Theory suggests that behavioral variables are the best or initial values for constructing precise market segmentation. Thus, market segmentation can be done based on the following factors: 1) Benefits, 2) User Status, 3) Usage Rate, 4) Buyer Readiness Stage, 5) Attitude, 6) Loyalty Status. Many argue that behavioral variables serve as the best reference to obtain the right market segments (Hartono, 2016). When someone experiences symptoms affecting their health, some of their responses or efforts may involve not seeking any help, attempting self-healing without medication, seeking self-healing through modern and traditional/herbal medicine, and seeking improvement by proposing proposals in negotiations with others (Pertiwi & Hamidah, 2018).

### Targetting

The step that a hospital should take after identifying its market segment opportunities is to determine the target area. Targeting activities involve selecting viable market segments to define a specific target market (Kotler & Armstrong, 2018). Hospitals should combine various variables to identify smaller and better-defined consumer criteria (Apriyanti & Sulistiadi, 2022). Targeting is the process of choosing service types to attract a larger audience. This process involves selecting one or more of these market segments. If hospital management does not set boundaries for targeting, it may result in either too narrow or too broad market segments, leading to suboptimal marketing (Marno & Sulistiadi, 2022). Government hospitals typically target patients who are participants of BPJS (Indonesia's national social insurance) and first-level health facilities. In contrast, private hospital targeting often involves patients from urban areas, of productive age, female, with higher education, and middle-income (Ulinuha & Wijaya, 2023).

### CONCLUSION

The hospital market consists of individuals utilizing hospital services, wherein the market varies across one or more aspects. These aspects differ and consider which is the most suitable to capture existing opportunities. There are four segmentation

variables commonly used in analyzing hospital segmentation: Geographic Segmentation, Demographic Segmentation, Psychographic Segmentation, and Behavioral Segmentation. If these segmentation aspects can be analyzed effectively, it will increase the chances of utilizing hospital services.

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