

E Healthcare: An Emerging Powerful Tool

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Abstract

eHealth is the use of information and communication technology to reinforce health and healthcare. It refers to forms of Prevention and education, diagnostics, therapy and care delivered through digital technology. The term eHealth characterizes not only a technical development, but also a global thinking to improve health care by using information and communication technology.

Keywords: eHealth, Education, Information and Communication.

Introduction

Many deaths are caused in developing countries due to preventable disease. e health has a important component of educated people and selfcare and use of interactive medical devices for self monitoring. There has to be a strategy devised in developing countries for better and inclusive development of health system of a nation and this strategy has to necessarily include improvement in quality of health services and at the same time better accessibility to general public to these services. Information and communication Technology can play a vital role in the access of these services. E-health can play a important role in innovative ways to address the problems.

Review of Literature

The healthcare ecosystem is changing. The confluence of several critical factors is necessitating a comprehensive re-evaluation of healthcare systems and the delivery of care. Established healthcare systems in developed countries will need to adjust to address the predicted chronic disease epidemics and the demands of an aging population. In developing systems, healthcare modernization is a priority as we witness a rising prevalence of 'Western' diseases. This eHealthcare environment will focus on patient-centric systems that reduce complexity, improve efficiency, and provide better patient outcomes. The transition towards eHealthcare, a vision of personalized healthcare that encompasses everything from patient empowerment to having a single slice-through view of the patient, will require a move away from an acute delivery platform to one that will focus more on managing the patient for life. This is a move towards healthcare 'without walls', where a connected healthcare delivery platform will be supported by greater use of patient-controlled data, the leveraging of health data through analytics, and empowered patient and physician communities. The adoption of disruptive technologies will also move treatment and patient management beyond the confines of the traditional institution. Increasing use of analytics layered over disparate data sources will help to transform the data mountain into actionable information.

The eHealth initiatives has a vision to delivery better health outcomes in terms of access, quality, affordability, lowering of disease burden and efficient monitoring of health entitlements to citizens. The scope of these initiatives are to make all medical facilities available all time from any part of the world through Web services, mobile services, SMS or Call center services. Broadly the intent is to cover online medical consultation, Online medical records, Online medicine supply management and Pan-India exchange for patient information but not limited to the said services.

Benefits can be described in the form of 10 e's in "e-Health"

1. Efficiency
2. Enhancing Quality
3. Evidence based
4. Empowerment of consumers and patients
5. Encouragement.
6. Education



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7. Enabling information exchange and communication
8. Extending the scope of health care
9. Ethics
10. Equity

Four fundamental ways in which technology can solve a bunch of these problems:

Aim of the Study

The paper aims at understanding and analysing e-Healthcare as potent tool for healthcare system. The study shows that various gaps in healthcare system can be filled by use of this technology. Globalisation and progress in ICT has made this technology even more important and urgent and thus paper will show its relevance.

Improved accessibility to Information and Products

Patients in today's day and age are well informed and research regarding their medical condition, medical treatment available. Patients can also understand how to make best use of its present location and finances for availing best medical facilities.

Better Accessibility

Patients now have better access to medicines via new and innovative routes i.e., ePharmacy, eDiagnostics, eInsurance. These routes provide door services. Such systems help in establishing supply chain which has authenticity and provide system without middlemen who took unwanted advantages from earlier ways.

Experts More in Reach

Telemedicine has made available the services of doctors in one of the most remote corners of country. This creative technology even helps to connect to global medicine experts for better information.

Transparent System of Health System

Consumers are now in a position to explore prices of medicinal products and compare them with other products from other brands. This helps the consumers in making a well informed decision.

The pressure on healthcare is currently cost Systems of care based on volume and not performance essentially reward duplicative services and inefficiency. Over the next decade this scenario will change as healthcare delivery embraces economic reality; if this occurs, healthcare delivery will be framed against the cost versus the result of care. Engaged consumers will play an increasing role in their own healthcare management. There will also be a shift from the acute view of healthcare delivery, where the hospital is the epicenter of care, to one where connected care focused on prevention is delivered from a variety of sites. These sites range from the conventional (the primary care office and

ambulatory facilities) to the non-conventional (the technology-enabled home, retail pharmacies, and medical tourism). Increased transparency of safety and outcomes is also predicted. The increasing deployment of healthcare information technologies (HIT) that facilitates these transitions is set to be another significant trend. The impact of comparative effectiveness will depend on the wide adoption of HIT systems and the use of electronic healthcare records data. Beyond that is the re-engineering of systems of care to incorporate healthcare information that can be translated from data that are being generated and collected now. Therefore, e-healthcare has a long way to go and will enable better medical services in the country.

Conclusion

There lies a difference in consumers who avail health services via internet and those who do so via general method. Internet has been used by people in a wide variety of ways like research on information, using internet services to check symptoms to decide if doctor has to be consulted or not and follow up appointments. Thus, internet has shown complementarity between physical health services and online ones.

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