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Healthcare Challenges during Pandemic: Role of Telemedicine

Sumit Mitra¹

¹Professor, Strategic Management Area, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, IIMK Campus PO, Kunnamangalam, Kozhikode, Kerala 673 570, India; Email - smitra@iimk.ac.in, Phone Number - 0495 - 2809108

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Abstract: In the wake of the pandemic, inadequacy of health services for the population was exposed, especially in overpopulated and low resource countries like India. Telehealth became a necessity for people and healthcare providers to continue regular consultations and care for chronic conditions. Besides meeting increasing demand for quality critical healthcare, its affordability for the masses could be met with the advent of IT driven healthcare using smartphones and computers. For infectious epidemics like Covid-19, it not only helped doctors and caregivers to provide support without being infected from physical contact but also kept the old and vulnerable from contracting the infection while being treated for their illnesses. However complex E healthcare using telemedicine needed coordinated ecosystem operations both on doctor/ hospital side as also on patient/ client side. This included multiple stakeholders such as nursing staff, suppliers, laboratories, and other staff as also cultural change and technological savviness of the patient and those related to recipient of care. This included increased trust in technology for delivery of expected care as also networking to share new knowledge and developments like that of vaccines. Therefore, this paper identifies telemedicine not just as technological interphase challenge between care giver and recipient but an effective interphase across the care giving and recipient ecosystems comprising of members, skill levels and technology working within the specific national policy and legal framework. With increasingly developed AI and Machine Language interphase, many of these ecosystem level necessities can be located at telemedicine platform level adding to transparency and trust among the deliverer and recipient of E Healthcare especially telemedicine which is remotely administered.

Research Office Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode IIMK Campus P. O., Kozhikode, Kerala, India, PIN - 673 570 Phone: +91-495-2809238 Email: research@iimk.ac.in Web: https://iimk.ac.in/faculty/publicationmenu.php

