Smart Health Systems

Emerging Trends Sonali Vyas Deepshikha Bhargava



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1

Smart Health: An Introduction

समदोषः समाग्निश्च समधातुमलक्रियः। प्रसन्नात्मेन्द्रियमनाः स्वस्थ इत्यभिधीयते।।

Samadoshaha samaagnischa samadhaatumalakriyaha I Prasannaatmendriyamanaaha swastha ityabhidheeyate II Sushruta Samhita - Sutra Sthana - 15:41 (1500 BC)

In the second century BC, the *Sushruta Samhita* text offered the most comprehensive explanation of health. A similar definition of health, given by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948, states that:

health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity.

There is no doubt that health has always been considered the most important measure of our life and has a symbolic relationship with other parts of our life. A healthy body and healthy mind signify a healthy life. The emergence of technologies has influenced many parts of our daily life, including healthcare. Technological advances now underline all dimensions of healthcare, including outdoor activities, home care, in-hospital healthcare and personal healthcare, to name just a few. Information and communications technology (ICT) plays an important role in improving the quality of healthcare from traditional healthcare to smart healthcare [1].

With increases in the population, traditional healthcare now finds it difficult to provide adequate solutions for its stakeholders. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has now made us all even more aware of the pressures imposed on healthcare management, and these concerns are globally the same in both developed countries (such as the UK and the USA) and developing countries (such as India). Although developed countries have outstanding health frameworks

and medical facilities, and cutting-edge technologies, they are still not able to deal with such a pandemic. The situation in developing countries with large populations is much more critical.

The major issues encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic include disease prevention, creation of awareness among citizens, diagnosis of COVID-19 patients, provision of proper treatment, bed management in hospitals, the care of COVID-19 patients, prevention of coronavirus anxiety, management of healthcare services, vaccine development and distribution, and—above all—management of shortages of supplemental oxygen supplies.

The present status of traditional healthcare systems and their contributions to the COVID-19 pandemic situation give us enough reasons to replace traditional healthcare with smart healthcare.

In this chapter, readers will gain understanding of the concepts of smart health and allied areas—such as electronic health (eHealth), digital health, mobile health (mHealth), and telehealth—and the significance of each of them. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the framework and various components of smart healthcare.

1.1 What Is Smart Health?

Smart health is use of various technological advances and gadgets to provide better services for patients, hospitals, doctors and health workers. In other ways, it provides better care in the dimension of health, usually termed *smart healthcare*.

The key concepts in smart healthcare include eHealth and mHealth services, electronic record management, smart home services, and intelligent and connected medical devices.

According to Blue Stream Consultancy [1]:

smart healthcare is defined by the technology that leads to better diagnostic tools, better treatment for patients, and devices that improve the quality of life for anyone and everyone.

The healthcare services provided by smart healthcare include [2]:

- Smart gadgets and medical wearables (such as the Fitbit and smartwatches)
- Smart healthcare products and monitoring devices (such as digital thermometers, smart glucometers and blood pressure monitors)
- The Internet of Medical Things (IoMT), wireless networks, body area networks and extensive area networks
- Smartphones and smart mobile applications (apps) for fitness, nutrition, hygiene and healthcare
- Smart devices for the elderly (hearing aids, toilet aids, walking aids, global positioning system (GPS) tracker shoe inserts etc.)
- Smart devices for persons with special needs (smart home help, smart sticks for the blind and partially sighted community, hands-free voice communication, speech to text etc.)