

Telemedicine With Committed Nurses Can Save Lives In Rural Areas: An Initiative Of The Catholic Health Association Of India (CHAI)

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Krithika Murali and Dr.Tomi
Thomas



Catholic Health Association of India



Current Situation

- 70% of the population in India resides in rural areas and do not have an adequate and sound public health infrastructure
- Around 75% of the qualified professionals practice in urban areas.
- Lack of proper health care facilities and the absence of an onsite doctors has contributed towards the increased morbidity and mortality in the rural areas

CHAI's Intervention: Telemedicine

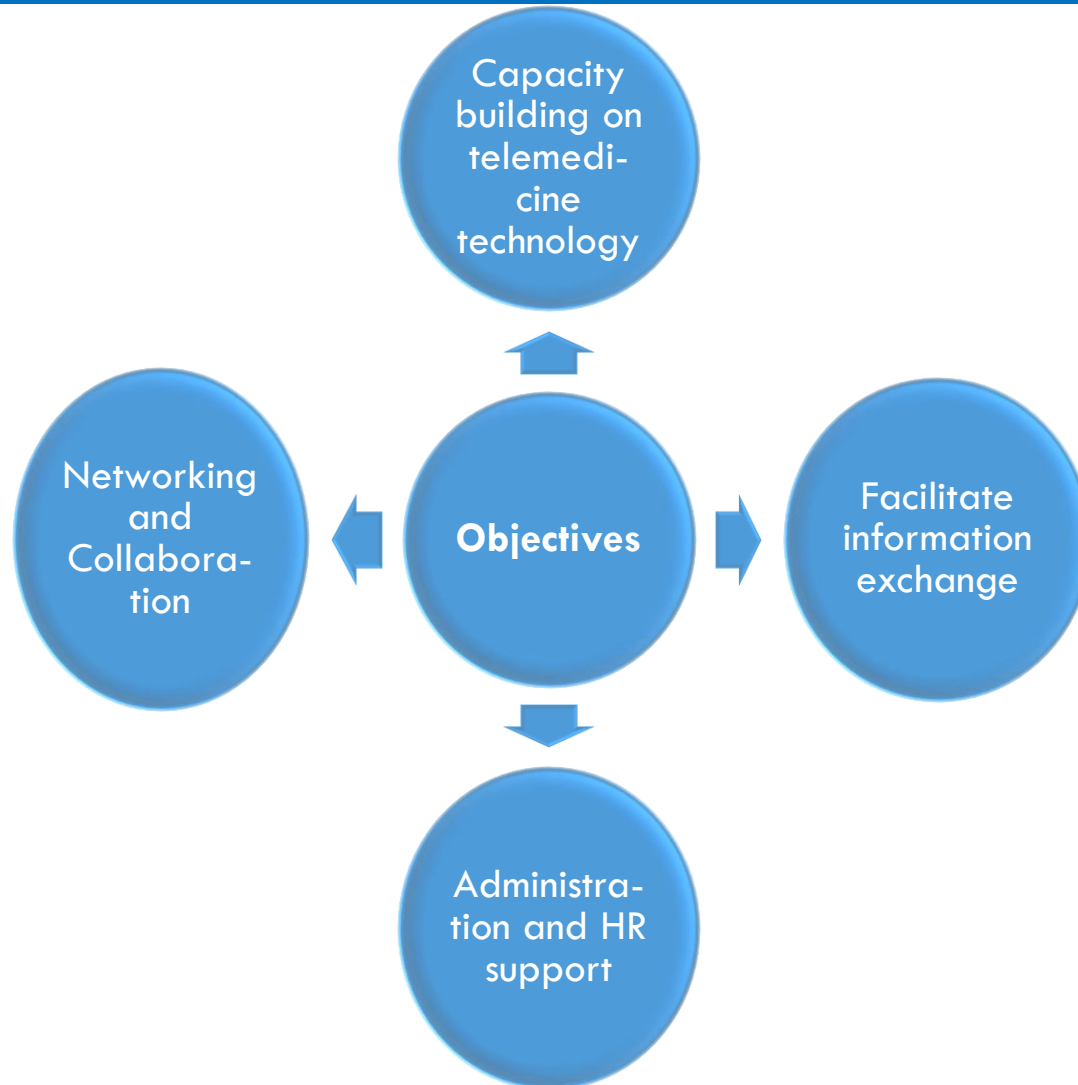


- Pilot project of CHAI
- Initiative to strengthen the service delivery
- Linking with expert doctors
- Off site consultation using technology.

Target Population: 50 health care institutions in the identified States viz *Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa.*

Project Goal: Providing healthcare services by healthcare professionals using Telemedicine technology for the exchange of valid information for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases in 50 health care institutions in the identified States viz Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa.

CHAI's Intervention: Telemedicine





Process and Key Activities

Identification of 50 health care institutions in rural /tribal areas of India.

Equipping institutions with the technology and resources

Recruitment of qualified and competent doctors

Training and Capacity Building

Networking : Identified health centres and Government programme

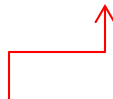
Process and Key Activities



Doctor at backend



**Connecting
through
SKYPE**



Sister-nurse at front end



Opportunity for patients for online consultation with medical practitioners

Focus on primary health care

Healthcare provision in areas with no health professionals

Snowballing effect of healthcare provision



Outcomes

Access to quality healthcare

- 1.5 lakh patients were directly benefited
- 4.2 lakhs benefitted indirectly

Capacity building of healthcare workers

- Enhances skills of sister-nurses
- Increase in knowledge on use of technology

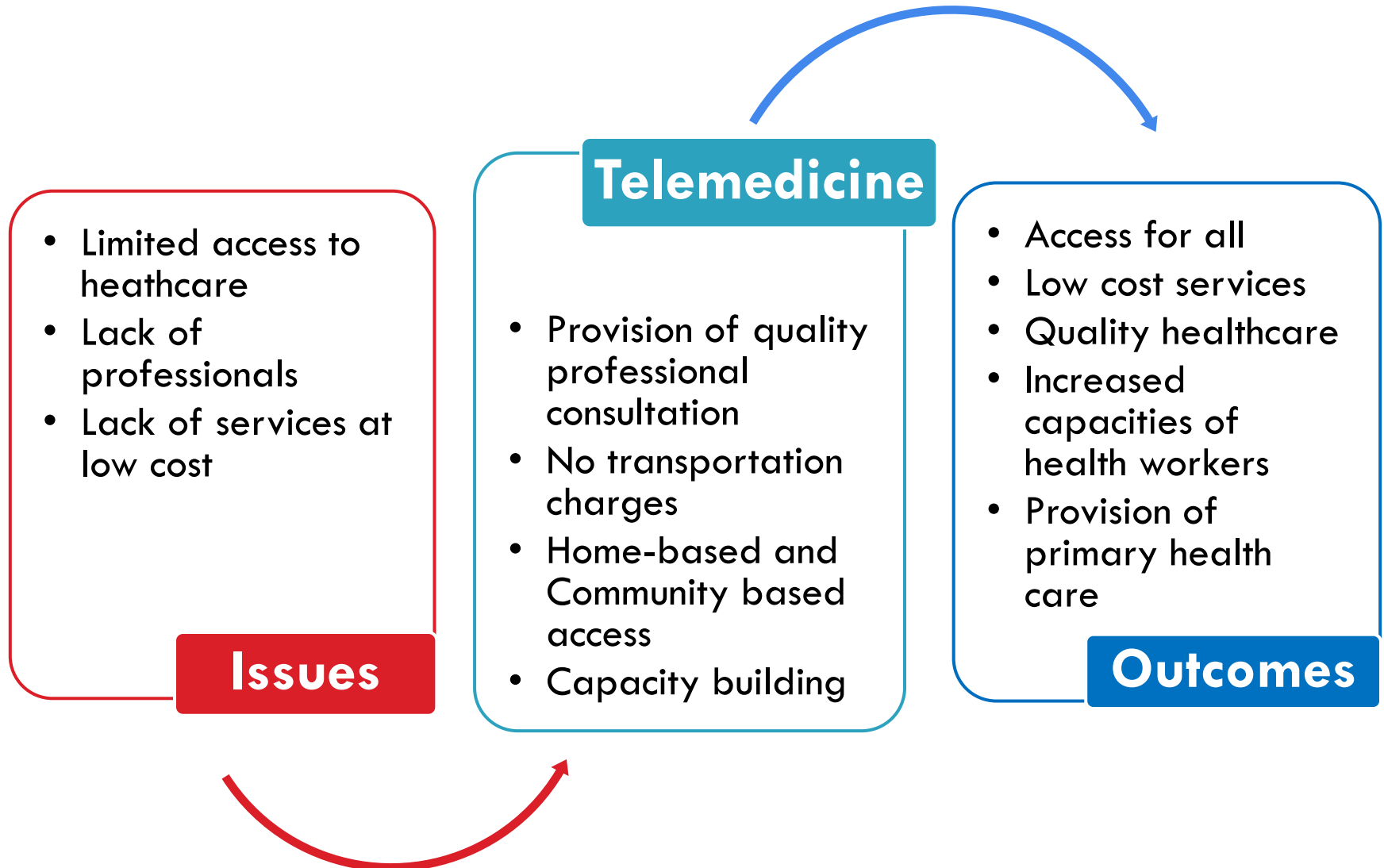
Low cost module

- Accessibility of healthcare at lower cost
- Reduced need for travel and referral system

Patient-centric module

- Increased patient satisfaction
- Improved health status of the people in the community

Synopsis





Photos from the field



**Telemedicine in progress:
Consultation through Skype**

**Training and Capacity
Building**



**Training and Capacity
Building**

Telemedicine for the elderly



- As per United Nations Population Fund, the elderly population in India is expected to reach 173 million by 2026
- In many developing countries reduced fertility has driven population ageing more than longevity.
- This shift means there are bigger economic issues than funding healthcare for older citizens.
- In addition, people are unable to afford healthcare



- Telemedicine is a perfect tool for the elderly population
- Possibility to remain at home and be monitored for chronic illnesses like cardiovascular disease and diabetes
- Low cost measure
- Professional expertise at their doorstep
- Shared care for diagnosis and treatment