

3rd International Conference on eHEALTH NETWORKING, APPLICATION AND SERVICES

November 18-19, 2024 | Paris, France

Strategies for bridging equity gap in virtual healthcare**Santosh Kumar Mishra**

S. N. D. T. Women's University, India

The author of this work argues that emergence of Internet technology has transformed how people access healthcare, globally. This phenomenon has resulted in evolution of virtual healthcare (also termed as '*telemedicine*' and '*telehealth*') which allows patients to receive medical services remotely, eliminating the need for in-person visits. However, it is pertinent to note that virtual health care delivery system has not translated into equitable access to care or equitable outcomes. The term 'equity' implies fairness and justice.

Prime objective of this paper is to address strategies for narrowing the gaps in equitable access virtual healthcare, now and in future. Also, it elaborates on those divides and reinforce the importance of digital tools as an important determinant of health. Secondary data (qualitative) have been used, and method of data analysis is descriptive).

Analysis of data indicates that there is need to ensure equitable access to virtual healthcare to all groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically (including by other dimensions of inequality, e.g., sex, gender, ethnicity, and disability). Equity in virtual healthcare is achieved in a situation wherein everyone can attain their full potential for well-being.

To ensure equitable access to healthcare, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-3 has set several targets to help countries move on the road to virtual healthcare equity. The targets include (1) reducing maternal mortality; (2) ending preventable child deaths; (4) achieving universal health coverage through access to quality essential healthcare services; and (5) providing access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. The multiple dimensions of inequity in virtual healthcare are currently faced with digitalization of health care. The paper briefly concludes that although virtual healthcare has become a game-changer in the medical field, it has reinforced barriers to health care for all, needing redefined strategies.

Biography

Santosh Kumar Mishra, an Independent Researcher and retired Technical Assistant from the Population Education Resource Centre, S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai, has an extensive academic background in demography, adult education, and human resource development. With a Ph.D. from the University of Patna and multiple professional certifications, Dr. Mishra has authored over 190 publications, including books, journal articles, and conference papers. Recognized with several awards for excellence in research and reviewing, his contributions span diverse fields, including agriculture and health care management.