

Virtual Healthcare

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Abstract:

Technology innovation has brought vital changes to the health sector. The research will focus on virtual healthcare as a current trend in the medical industry. It will highlight the clinical evolution of virtual healthcare before and during the COVID-19 pandemic and examine the Impacts of Virtual Healthcare on Humans on their Mental health. The research will use the available data from medical research institutions such as the American Well study, Center for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization, American Psychiatric Association, and literary works from health scholars' research on telemedicine.

I. Introduction

Virtual healthcare is the use of modern technology for example videos, telephones, text-based messaging, mobile apps and several communications in the delivery of healthcare to patients out of a healthcare system. Virtual healthcare enables the interaction of a patient and an offsite clinical specialist through high-definition technology. Generally, in virtual healthcare, there is a provision of healthcare services to patients without the face-to-face interaction of a patient and a health practitioner.

The use of virtual healthcare enables real-time communication, check-ins, consultations and the patient's status report (tiger connect, 2018). Usually, most people refer to virtual healthcare as being telemedicine, telehealth and tele practice. The terms are closely aligned theoretically but they mean different. Virtual healthcare includes the entire provisions of healthcare by the use of digital technology. The research will examine the evolution of virtual healthcare, virtual healthcare before and during the COVID-19 era, the effects of the use of telemedicine, how it affected healthcare and its effects on humans on their mental health.

II. The Clinical Evolution of Virtual Healthcare

In the home-based delivery of healthcare for instance in 1879, there was the use of the telephone to reduce patient's visit to the hospital. The telephone calls would only be used to offer simple diagnosis by a clinician and it treated uncomplicated illness for example influenza and ear infections. In 1925, a magazine featured a doctor giving medical attention to a patient by use of a video call (Thomas S. Nesbitt, 2012). At this point, the editor of the magazine only had an editor's vision on the future technology of the healthcare system. Over 100 years later, there has been a rise in modern technology that has to modernize the delivery of virtual healthcare. Many innovations have been implemented in the health industry as physicians implement new ways to better their access to the patients while decreasing the healthcare cost.

The telecommunication companies together with the healthcare industries are currently working together in the establishment of software virtual healthcare. Virtual healthcare is a dynamic health evolution that enables health experts to deliver cost-friendly and personalized healthcare. The commonly used technology is the store and forward that is used in transferring digital images from one location to the other. Most consumers of virtual healthcare are increasingly being witnessed with the millennials. Research by the Advisory Board established that about 77% of patients are willing to see a healthcare provider virtually and about 19% have used it before (Advisory Board, 2017). Virtual healthcare is not only redistributing the delivery of healthcare but it is reinventing the patient and a healthcare provider relation. According to a study by American Well Study in the year 2015 up to 2019, the use of virtual health has seen an increase of about 340% (American Well study, 2019). More than 75% of healthcare providers reported having implemented the use of virtual healthcare. The driving force for the virtual care visit is all about convenience since many consumers expect their healthcare visits to be more flexible with the less waiting time.

III. REFERENCES

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