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ARTIST launches pilot app for establishing digital clinics to improve competencies of obstetrics & gynaecologists in India

The Asian Institute for Research and Skill Transfer (ARTIST) is currently testing a pilot app for the establishment of digital clinics. Those 'fit to be moms' and 'to be moms' will be engaged through the app on several clinical aspects. Now ARTIST aims to improve the capabilities and competencies of obstetrics & gynaecologists (ObGyns) in India.

The objective of the pilot app is to understand if the digital engagement framework is able to scale a hospital's accessibility to more people, without any compromise in the clinical outcomes, in a cost-effective manner. It will also look at how far is it helping in simplifying matters for the patients and healthcare providers for 24x7 care.

"Once the model is validated and improvised over several iterations, we intend to make this widely available to serve beyond time zones and geographic boundaries. Integration of digital technology will address the gaps in access to healthcare services, for those in semi-urban and rural geographies in the years to come and also engage next-generation consumers," said Dr. Hema Divakar, founder, ARTIST and technical advisor to Union government for maternal health.

ARTIST has conducted technology-assisted skills training programs and capacity enhancement workshops which have helped over 10,000 ObGyns, with online certification courses, 1,000 paramedics and 5,000 students in enhancing their capabilities and gaining hands-on experience on a variety of topics related to women's healthcare.

Digital disruptions is gaining significance as it is improving service accessibility, personalization of healthcare delivery and making it care cost effective without compromising on quality. Right from booking appointments, consultations with the doctor, releasing the diagnostic results, intermediate communication with healthcare providers for clarifications or quick consultations, paying bills to managing hospital visits are being transformed digitally and will soon simplify service delivery and reduce cycle time in a manner unprecedented," she added.

"IoT (Internet of Things), data technologies and AI (artificial intelligence) will further help us customize healthcare delivery for patients and will help us predict health conditions based on initially captured patient profile data. This is sure to make the system more intelligent and will also aid preventive care solutions in a big way. Management of several health conditions including non-communicable diseases like diabetes during pregnancy will be efficient as the system will be conducive for instantaneous communications, responses, and call to action," she said.

Although the Indian healthcare system may be comparatively slower in leveraging new technologies, but initiatives like the Digital India together with availability of low-cost mobile phones & internet connectivity with operating systems in regional languages creates an opportunity to get quality and affordable healthcare at a larger scale.

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