

# Artificial intelligence in Primary Healthcare at Remote Areas

Dr.J.SRINIVASAN<sup>1</sup>, Dr.K.KRISHNAMOORTHY<sup>2</sup>

1. Associate Professor& Head/CSE(Cyber),Sri Shanmugha College of Engineering and Technology,Sankari,Salem.

2. Professor& Head/IT, Sri Shanmugha College of Engineering and Technology,Sankari,Salem.

## Abstract

Because of systemic issues with inadequate infrastructure, a lack of qualified experts, and inadequate preventive measures, artificial intelligence (AI) may improve access to primary health care in rural areas, particularly in places with an underserved and rural population. The revolutionary roles of AI technology in efforts to close these gaps by enhancing healthcare access and delivery are covered in this study. With the development of machine learning (ML) and natural language processing (NLP), artificial intelligence (AI) applications could improve resource management, speed up and simplify patient interfaces, and improve diagnostic accuracy. This list of advantages sounds encouraging, but there are a number of obstacles in the way of AI's adoption in healthcare, including the need for good legal frameworks, ethical concerns, and data security guarantees. Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, The revolutionary roles of AI technology in efforts to close these gaps by enhancing healthcare access and delivery are covered in this study. With the development of machine learning (ML) and natural language processing (NLP), artificial intel-

ligence (AI) applications could improve resource management, speed up and simplify patient interfaces, and improve diagnostic accuracy. This list of advantages sounds encouraging, but there are a number of obstacles in the way of AI's adoption in healthcare, including the need for good legal frameworks,

ethical concerns, and data security guarantees. Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and mobile health (mHealth) technologies all contribute to prevention while developing novel approaches to remote monitoring and consultation. Thus, achieving AI's full potential in rural health presents challenges in the socioeconomic and infrastructure domains. requires proactive cooperation. According to the current study, there is an urgent need for high-caliber research that is evaluated in the real world to determine whether artificial intelligence (AI) might enhance health outcomes for those living in rural areas.

Keywords

Healthcare Rural medicine, Artificial intelligence Technology Health

## Global overview of the rural population

Over 3.4 billion people reside in rural areas

worldwide, making up approximately 43% of the global population. Asia and Africa are home to the majority of the world's rural population; China and India have the biggest rural populations. Due to obstacles including geographic dispersion, financial limits, and infrastructure limitations, access to healthcare in rural areas continues to be a major challenge. In comparison to metropolitan regions, these populations are typically characterized by poorer wages, poor access to healthcare, and comparatively high unemployment rates. As a result, this group is particularly vulnerable to health inequalities, which often involve greater rates of chronic illnesses and restricted access to medical care.

AI technology can close this gap by improving healthcare delivery's much-needed efficacy and efficiency to these neglected regions.

In addition to enhancing the quality of care, it frees up medical professionals' time to diagnose patients, allowing them to engage with patients more and plan treatments.

## Access issues to healthcare

### In-rural places

Compared to urban regions, access to healthcare services is typically significantly more difficult in rural communities. Lack of health infrastructure, such as hospitals and diagnostic centers, is one of the primary issues. The known lack of medical experts is another significant factor contributing to the lack of adequate healthcare in rural areas. It has been demonstrated that a lack of primary and specialized healthcare professionals affects many rural populations, which results in worse health and higher death rates when compared to urban areas. Economic challenges make access

even more difficult since underfunded healthcare infrastructure renders services inaccessible and prohibitively expensive. Furthermore, health awareness and understanding are typically poorer among rural inhabitants. Additionally, health promotion and education in rural areas, programs are frequently deficient. Unreliable transportation makes the problem worse, and travel distance is another significant barrier that frequently causes delays that worsen health conditions. For instance, studies show that transportation is a major barrier to receiving maternity and child health care. In rural areas, it is often challenging to prioritize health requirements due to inadequate transportation infrastructure. This condition is repeated in several contexts, where rural communities struggle with poor transportation infrastructure, making it difficult to prioritize their health requirements. A comprehensive effort to enhance healthcare funding, infrastructure, and personnel availability is necessary to address these issues.

## Using AI to transform the delivery of medical services

By addressing shortages in medical staff and resources, artificial intelligence (AI) may be able to increase access to healthcare in rural areas. Improving access to early detection and illness screening is one of AI's most significant benefits for rural healthcare. AI-based screening for conditions like skin cancer and diabetic retinopathy has been shown in numerous studies to be both affordable and successful in expanding its reach into remote places. AI systems in healthcare are mainly made to optimize procedures, lower dosage errors, manage medicine, and make initial diagnosis. AI in healthcare is also changing

the way medical services are delivered . Given that AI has the potential to transform healthcare because of its efficiency, costeffectiveness, and accuracy, there is growing fear that this new trend may jeopardize the customized, compassionate treatment that often defines the patient-providerconnection. A startling 50% of patients worldwide receive consultations from doctors lasting five minutes or less, which raises concerns about the standard of care and whether these consultations can adequately address the patient's health issues . Using AI chatbots in this situation helps expedite patient contacts. ChatGPT and other recent developments in large language models (LLMs) have demonstrated some success in enhancing the caliber of virtual assistant responses in healthrelated scenarios. Because of this, the chatbot can then become more proficient at handling increasingly complex healthrelated questions that could come from the patients themselves, leading to better results and greater satisfaction. Additionally, it can offer patients timely health information, help them understand their symptoms, recommend potential treatments, remind them to take their meds, and manage chronic illnesses all of which will significantly increase patient adherence to treatment. Additionally, AIpowered solutions in rural healthcare could help clinicians deliver services more efficiently. In order to free up experts to handle patients' more complex demands, active AI technology can help automate repetitive chores like scheduling appointments and following up with patients. Not only may AI increase prescription accuracy, but it can also offer insights into better resource planning and patient management. By evaluating large data sets and reducing the likelihood of prescription errors, machine learning (ML) algorithms of AI technologies

can provide health practitioners with the best practices for prescribing medications.

As AI-powered technologies, machine learning (ML) and natural language processing (NLP) have been used for monitoring, diagnosis, and detection, and they exhibit a high level of accuracy. on clinical assignments . By keeping patients in their homes rather than costly healthcare facilities like hospitals or nursing homes, mobile health (mHealth) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies have made remote health monitoring a reality. These technologies use noninvasive and unobtrusive wearable sensors that provide continuous real-time monitoring of the patients' physiological signs and activities, which can be accessed by health professionals from distant facilities . The management of chronic diseases like TB, HIV, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, colorectal cancer, and pneumonia can be made easier in rural areas with the help of mHealth technology like text messaging . By providing affordable healthcare solutions , these technologies have the potential to enhance quality of life and health outcomes . Clinical decision support systems (CDSS) with AI capabilities can also benefit rural healthcare providers, who frequently do not have access to expert assistance. Real-time guidance on diagnosis, treatment alternatives, or patient management will follow, along with recommendations for care modifications that will enhance results when applicable . For the analysis of various imaging modalities, such as MRIs, CT scans, and X-rays, deep learning algorithms have demonstrated significant potential in the field of medical image processing]. By adopting these technologies, healthcare professionals can receive preliminary evaluation support, which red

reduces burden and allows them to concentrate on patients. Even the most remote locations might be served by integration with AI and telemedicine techniques, which would reduce the need to transport patients over great distances for searches.

of services. When applied to electronic medical records (EMR) using natural language processing (NLP), this AI will also increase accessibility to patient data interpretation, allowing for the derivation of well-informed decisions.

This strategy has placed a strong emphasis on using a variety of data sources to improve prediction accuracy, a concept that has been similarly established in other diabetes-related studies. The application of AI in healthcare is not without its difficulties, though.

To guarantee that AI technologies are used responsibly and effectively, ethical issues, data security, and the requirement for regulatory frameworks continue to be of utmost importance. Talks about accountability and the perceived risk of technological replacement can quickly undermine health practitioners' trust in AI, which is another component of participation. For improved outcomes, politicians and medical professionals might consider the following suggestions when it comes to the application of AI for rural health:

- i. To get the necessary technology acceptance, trust, and skill in its use, health professionals must receive extensive training on how to integrate and apply AI in clinical practice.
- ii. Bring together technology businesses and healthcare providers to work together to develop pertinent

solutions for demands at the national and local levels.

- iii. Pilot testing AI apps for rural health to show best practices and proof of concept efficacy.
- iv. Work with nearby communities to design and execute AI solutions that address the unique needs of rural people.
- v. Encourage various studies that use AI in rural health to investigate creative answers to particular medical problems.
- vi. Increase patient and healthcare provider knowledge and instruction of the advantages and constraints of AI in healthcare so that adoption rises and trust is stimulated.

## Conclusion

To sum up, the use of AI in primary healthcare has enormous potential to enhance both the quality and accessibility of healthcare in Bangladesh's rural areas. Academic health systems can overcome some of the current obstacles to providing prompt, efficient, and fair healthcare services by utilizing AI technologies.

However, in order for AI to fully alter healthcare in rural areas, socioeconomic and infrastructure obstacles must be addressed through coordinated efforts.

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