

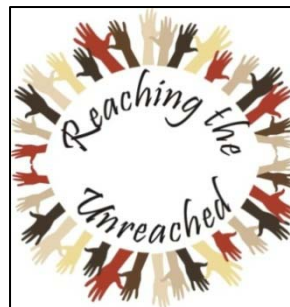
Information Technology

Moderator: Mr. R D Thulasiraj

Speakers: Mr. Raheem Rahmatullah

Mr Ganesh Babu

Ms. Xue Yang





Domain Areas - Role of IT

- Planning
- Providing eye care services - remote diagnostics & clinical management
- Health Education
- Monitoring



Status of IT

- Computers are becoming very affordable and can be easily sourced in most parts
- Pool of IT professionals are increasing
- Broadband is becoming more universal and affordable; there are multiple technologies to establish broadband links
- There are many software packages available which can be readily used



Role of IT in Planning

- Identifying the underserved areas - the unreached: use of GIS (Health Mapper)
- Identifying existing resources
- Planning for specific outreach activity – defining the effective target area
- Collaborative effort is required to get accurate data



Role of IT in Eye Care Services - Remote diagnostics

- Making tertiary care accessible at the primary level
- Telemedicine: Store & Forward - not real time
 - Cyber Sight from ORBIS
 - EyesTalk & ADRESS from Aravind



Role of IT in Eye Care Services - Service Delivery

- Telemedicine: Real time consultations (bandwidth dependant)
- Use of cell phones – voice & text messaging for reminders
- Can reduce the travel effort & costs of both the community and providers
- Has a role in monitoring and enhancing quality & competence



IT in Health Education

- Multi-media applications
- Websites for health education and platform for service promotion



Role of IT in monitoring

- Check whether we are actually reaching the unreached: monitoring where we are getting the patients from
- IT Tools available
 - Spreadsheet (Excel)
 - Database applications
 - GIS



IT technology useful for reaching the unreached

- Non bandwidth application: database for planning and monitoring
- Bandwidth dependant applications for service delivery as well as education
- Use all existing technologies like radio & cell phones to get a message across, follow-up, etc.



Next Steps

- Promote the use of IT
- Tested IT products with proven application benefits to be made available
- Address training issues