



Global Consultation on Reaching the Unreached Information Technology

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Trends & Magnitude:

- Since 1990's the world wide web became a powerful part of the information culture
- Recently however the trends changed and as there has been a significant increase in the use of computers as they have been made available through schools, public libraries, workplaces and home users have increased
- The new Era is now of the Digital Age



Trends & Magnitude: Contd...

- Increasingly being used as a source of information sharing, dissemination and communication
- Rapid technological advancements being made in this field
- Telemedicine
- Availability of Real Time Information



Reaching the Unreached – Information Technology - Trends

- Cutting edge technology enhances
 - Disease Surveillance
 - Monitoring
 - Emergency Planning
 - Disaster Management
 - Geographic Information



Reaching the Unreached – Information Technology - Trends

- Opportunities for e-health and governance through web portal
- Opportunities to develop innovative methods of communication
- Cell phone culture and opportunity to improve communication access
- Opportunity to develop decision making support tools to support behavioral change



Reaching the Unreached – Information Technology - Trends

- Facilitate transfer of data
- Innovative service delivery options like vision centers in rural areas with telemedicine access.
- Information influencing behavioral change with technology
- Opportunity to use this source to support social and cultural changes



Issues and barriers to access the patients from the provider:

- Lack of support infrastructure
- communication
- Access to information technology and services can be related to geography, literacy, local infrastructure, and cultural differences some of which may not be overcome
- As Information technology plays a major role, there will be some who will be left behind due to the technological advances



Issues and barriers to access the patients from the provider: Contd..

- Lack of access can be an issue
- Lack of understanding linguistic and cultural barriers
- Patient confidentiality due to lack of security measures
- Enhancing our ability to address health needs
- Rural hospitals have difficulty in recruitment and retention



Issues and barriers to access from the patients

- Lack of Access
- Lack of health care professionals
- Lack of providers
- Lack of knowledge of how to access the provider
- Lack of coordination
- Lack of communication at different levels



Issues and barriers to access from the patients

- Lack of specialist services
- Lack of social support
- For aging population unable to access service delivery at the doorstep
- Health insurance is not easily available in rural areas



Conclusion

- Promote community based programs
- Information sharing and monitoring
- Cost effective
- Improved management practices
- Improve access to service delivery



Conclusion

- Improved acceptance of service delivery
- Telemedicine enables patients and providers to interact even though they are miles apart
- Access to specialties through video imaging and real time cooperation



Thank You

International Eye Foundation