Dhaka University Telemedicine Program

- Rural Healthcare Using Indigenously Developed Technology

Local Solutions with Global Potential



Department of Biomedical Physics & Technology
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

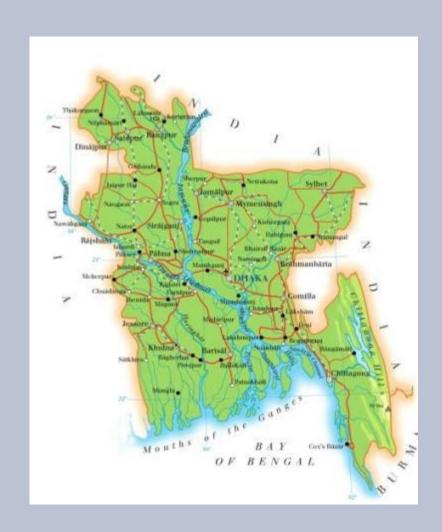
Contact: Prof K Siddique-e Rabbani, rabbani@du.ac.bd

<www.bmpt.du.ac.bd>, <www.telemedbd.net>

Background of Project

- About 70% of total population lives in rural areas in Bangladesh
- Country average: 3.6 doctors for 10,000 people
- Much much less in rural areas, virtually 'zero'

Contrast: In the rich West very few live in villages



Background: Healthcare scenario for rural Bangladesh

- 421 Semi-urban (Upazilla) hospitals have about 16,000 beds and posts for qualified doctors, but few doctors remain there.



- These hospitals are many miles away from most villages with poor road communication
- Many people do not take any treatment at all unless it turns to an emergency
- Rural people go to pharmacists, quacks for consultation –
 results in maltreatment, misuse of antibiotics and steroids

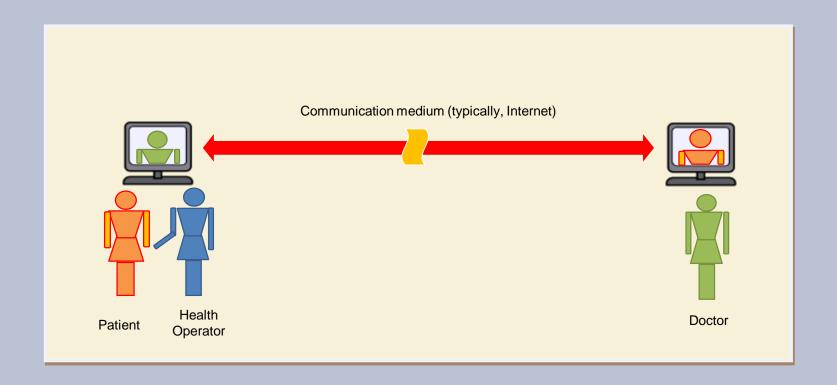
Background

- Most village people do not have proper medical care
- Women, children, infirm and old suffer the most as the travel to a hospital is difficult for them



Photo Courtesy: https://shahidul.files.wordpress.com/2007/08/tanvir-b-w-05212007084615.jpg

Solution: Telemedicine – medicine at a distance



- Patients in one location connected to doctors in another location through a communication medium
- Doctor provides prescription through this medium

<u>Telemedicine – in the rich West</u>

For specialised consultation (from a hospital) in tertiary care



Home patient care (for the aged), using mobile units

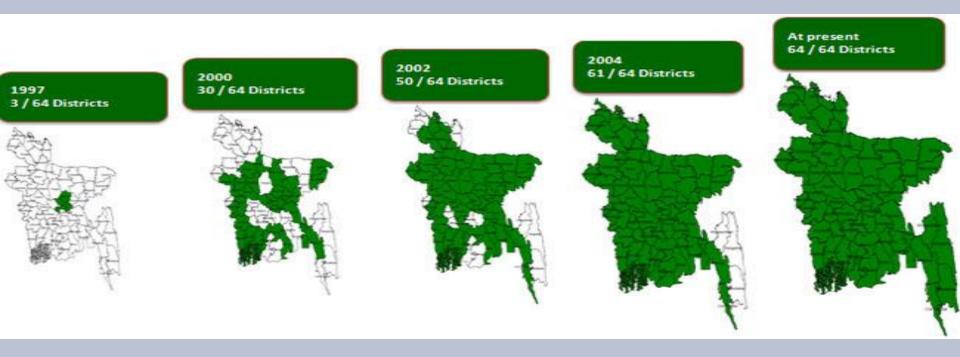


- Systems: expensive and difficult to repair
- Not suitable for primary and secondary care in a low resource country

Opportunity for Telemedicine in Bangladesh

Internet and mobile phone networks cover almost the whole of Bangladesh. Telemedicine can use both these media effectively.

Mobile phone coverage progression (1997 – 2016) Many places have fast 3G network, good for video



If foreign equipment used for telemedicine, situation?

- Very expensive to procure
- Fails frequently under our weather and power line conditions
- Repair unrealistic, cost prohibitive (purchasing a new one is more cost effective than repairing)
- Un-sustainable









Solution? – Homegrown Technology



Our background at Dhaka university

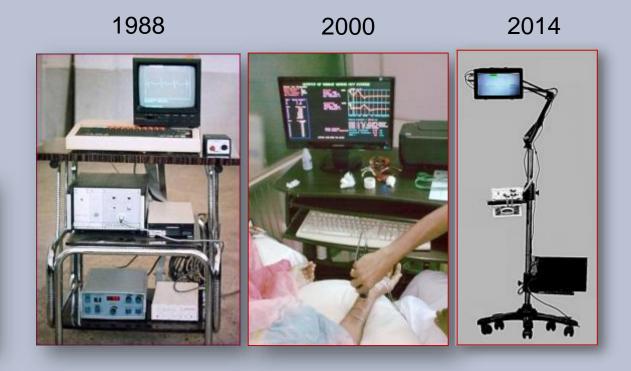
Dept of Biomedical Physics & Technology [BMPT-DU, since 2008] with its background in the dept of Physics since 1978

Experience in the design & development of

- Electronic instruments for medical research, since 1978
- IT enabled (computerised) medical equipment, since 1986.





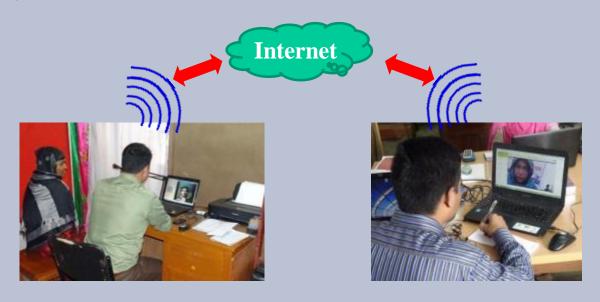




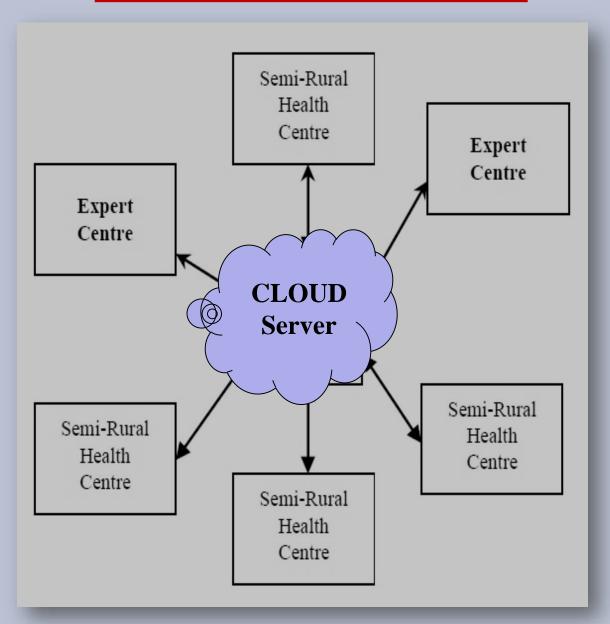
R&D for Telemedicine at Dhaka university

Dept of Biomedical Physics & Technology [BMPT-DU]

- Learnt in 2010 internet with video links in 400 Upazilla Health Complexes by Government
- Initiated the effort towards developing a PC based telemedicine system that uses internet.
- Developed several online devices that include Stethoscope, ECG and others
- Developed software for Telemedicine



Basic Telemedicine Network



Computerised ECG, our own design

Single Channel, 12 lead: for telemedicine, or for stand-alone use

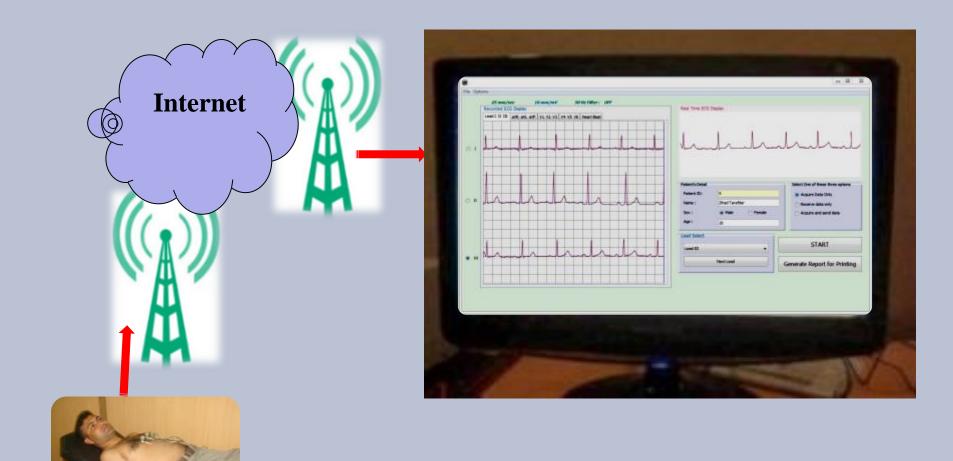


- Hand crafted aluminium cabinet
- ➤ Hand crafted Leather bag for Tablet model
- Compact size

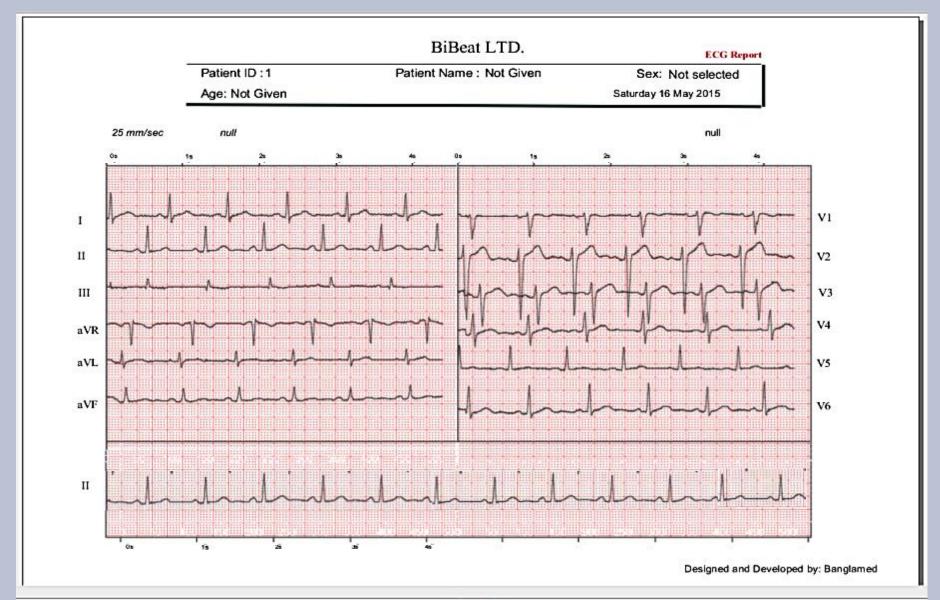


Being manufactured by a non-shareholding Social Enterprise

Our ECG allows live data transmission through internet



- Produces combined ECG traces.
- May be sent to Cardiologist via webserver or email



Certification for ECG equipment

Obtained through DG Health, Bangladesh Govt.









TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that the ECG tracings recorded by the computer based ECG machine developed by Prof. Dr. Khondkar Siddique-e Rabbani & his team of the department of Biomedical Physics & Technology of Dhaka University are nearly identical to those recorded by conventional ECG machines in the same subjects (12 in total).

In my opinion this ECG machine is quite reliable and can be of good use in the diagnosis of cardiac problems in the field of Telemedicine.

Dr. Abdul Wadud Chowdhury

Professor and Head Department of Cardiology Dhaka Medical College Hospital Dhaka, Bangladesh.

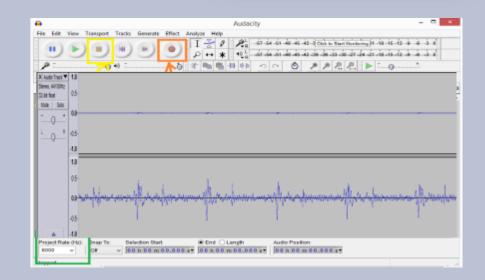
Our PC based Stethoscope

- Microphone connected to stethoscope head
- Signal amplified through a USB Soundcard
- Live transmission of sound through Skype for initial monitoring, but quality not good
- We use a free software

 'Audacity' to record a few
 seconds of data. The file is
 sent to doctor through
 Skype → gives good quality,
 acceptable to doctors.







Multipurpose Imaging camera with flexible arm

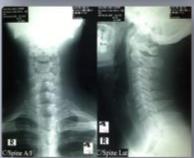


2 Mpixel camera, Carl Zeiss Glass Lens, software zoom

Possible use:

- Patient's appearance
- 2. Dermatology
- 3. Film X-Ray digitiser
- 4. Ultrasound scan image grabbing
- Written record digitiser (scanning)







Soon to add: Localised Lungs monitor using Electrical Impedance

Helps pneumonia detection in children which needs accurate respiration rate



Challenge: baby should not cry!!

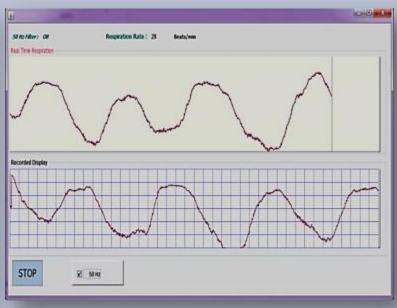
We innovated a soft palm-worn electrode. Mother wears it and places on child's thorax.

Result - Success! Babies did not cry!!









For basic measurement: commercially available ones used – results are manually typed in













Address: www.telemedbd.net

PC (Windows) based, MySQL database driven PHP app built on top of Laravel framework

Interface in Bangla, local language

First page (Login for operator/doctor. Shows operator of month)































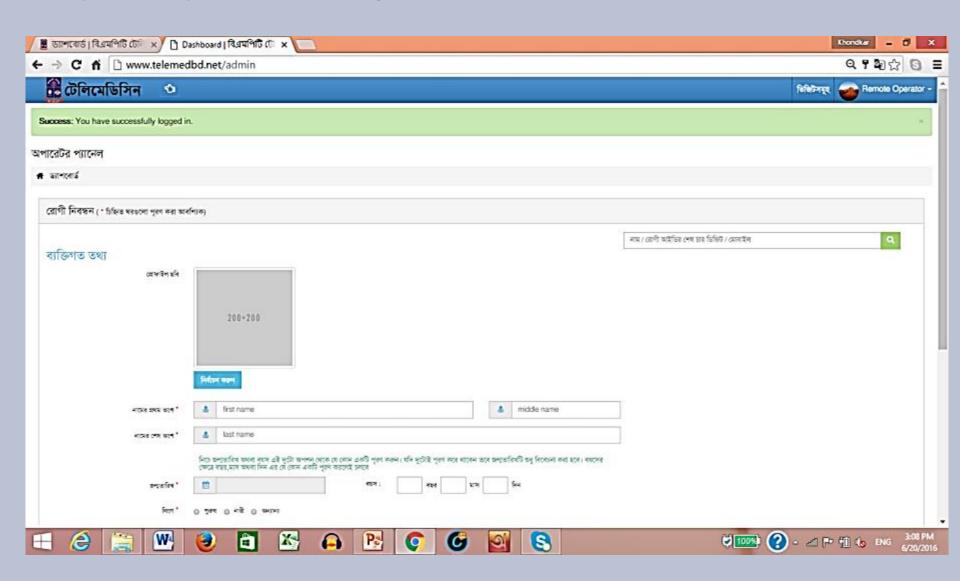




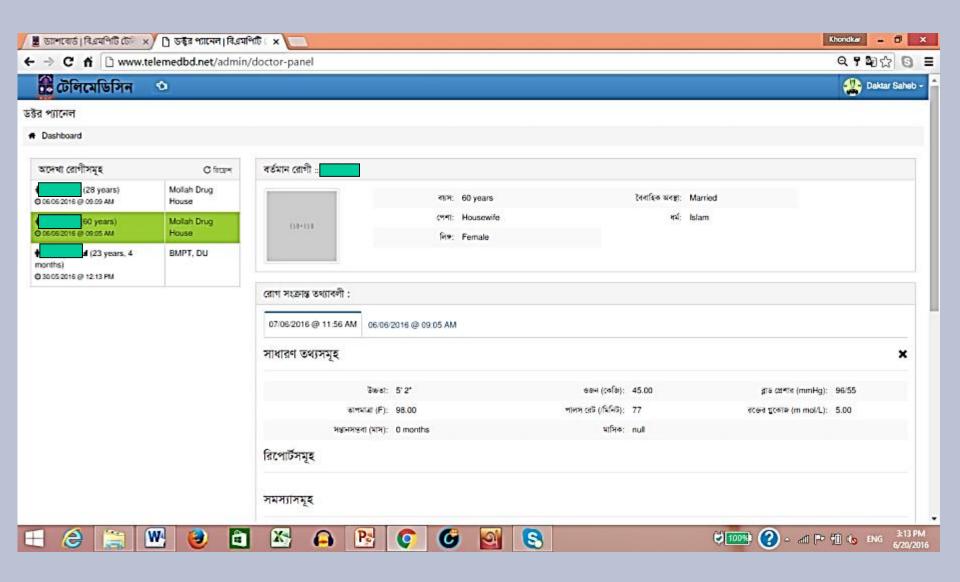




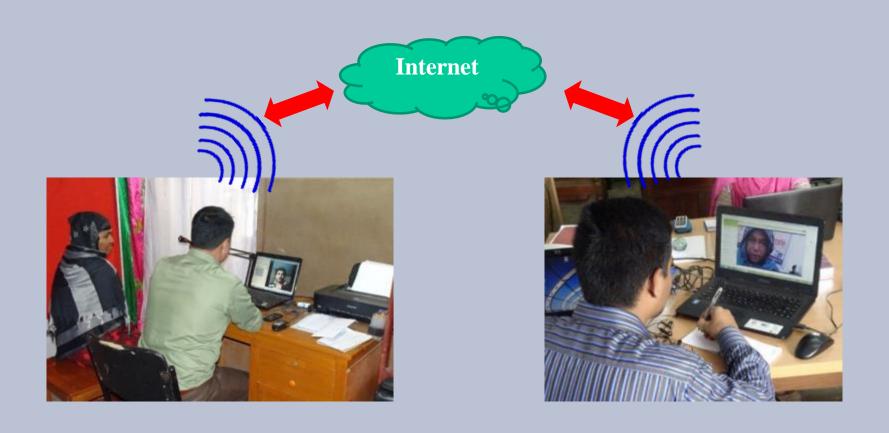
Operator's panel - Patient registration



Doctor's panel - Patient information



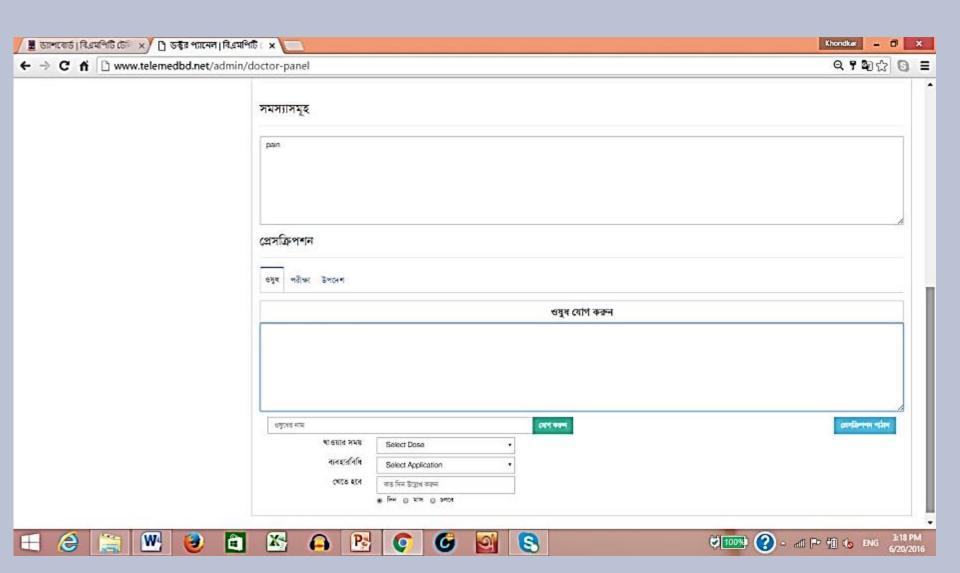
Video conference for consultation Uses Skype



Patient & Operator

Doctor

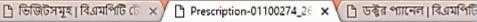
Doctor's panel for Prescription generation



Sample page



Doctor's panel **Prescription Preview**









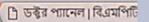












Print





Organized by Dept. of Biomedical Physics & Technology

telemedbd.net/admin/visits/2654/print



ALMAS DRUG HOUSE Shurzo nogor, Datta Para, Shibchar, Madaripur Mobile: 01717274256

Age: 14 years Sex: Female

Patient ID: 01100274 Date: 20/05/2016

HISTORY: expessive menstruation

PHYSICAL FINDINGS:

Height 0'0" Weight 48.00 kg BP: 100/70 mm/Hg Temp: 99.00 F Pulse rate: 70 /min.

TESTS: **□ USG OF LOWER ABDOMEN**

ADVICE: ক্রেনী করেশাক সবন্ধি খাবেন। বেশী করে পানি খাবেন

Rx

= cap. traxyl 500mg 3 निम 1+1+1 খাওয়ার পরে

= cap bextrum teen hr 1 মাস 1+0+1 খাওমার পরে

= cap. ipec plus 1 মাস 1+0+1 খাওয়ার পরে

এই প্রেসজিশান বেল্রিস্টার্ড চিকিৎসক কর্তৃক টেলিমেডিসিন সফট ৪য়ার বাবচার করে প্রথমকৃত। হাকে লেয়া কোন উত্থলের মর্শ প্রথমবোদ্য নয়।











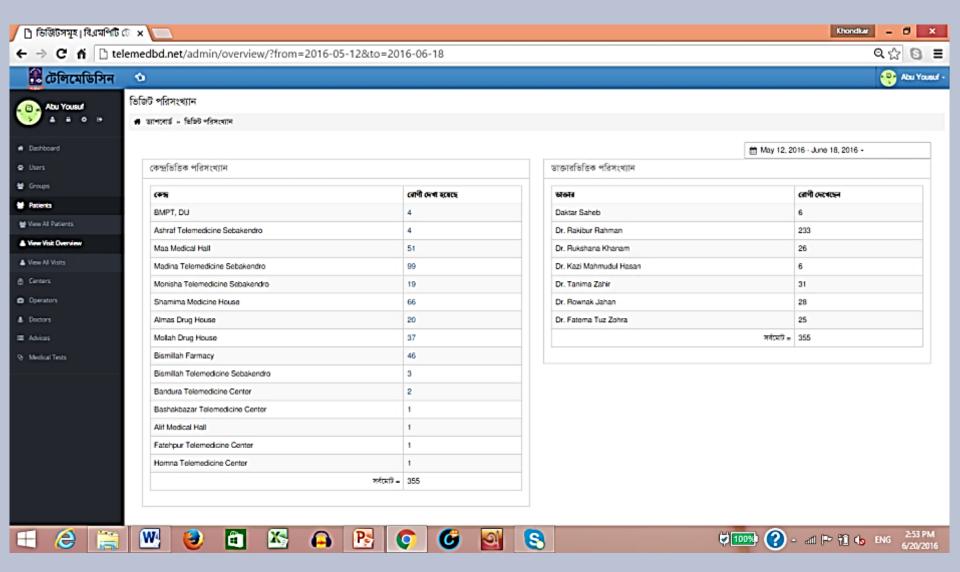




Software for Telemedicine – Monitoring

Sample page

Gives options of getting details of patients, operators and doctors as well as of medical history and prescriptions from archive. Secured by password.



Typical health problems that may be covered by Telemedicine (Primary and Secondary Healthcare)

Fever

Headache

Abdominal pain

Diarrhoea

Respiratory problems

Eye & Ear problems

Early heart problems

Early obstetrics & Gynaecological

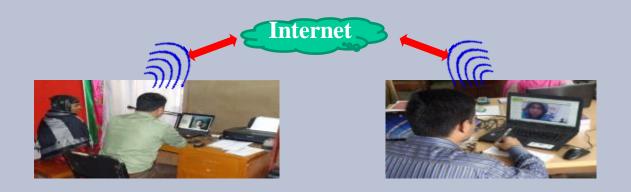
problems

Pain at joints

Skin problems

Early Diabetes, etc. ...

Not suitable for emergencies or problems requiring surgical interventions



Dhaka University Telemedicine Programme (DUTP)

Organised by Dept of Biomedical Physics & Technology (BMPT)

Chronological progress:

2010-12: R&D started, PC based system

2013: Field trial (through an NGO)

2015: Support from A2I (BD Govt) for field trial

2015: Permission from DG Health for DU to

establish centres over Bangladesh

2015: DUTP name is approved by DU (Nov)

2016: 5 old and 4 new rural centres running

2016: Monthly patient visits: 300 to 500

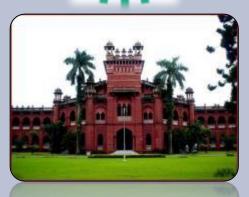
Future:

2015-2016: Develop mobile phone based system (Australia based ISIF-Asia grant received)

2017: reach out to other low resource countries







Users and uses

- Service provided through telemedicine service centres in rural areas by local entrepreneurs
- Sets up computer, internet and equipment and patient room
- Pays license fee and takes training from BMPT
- Doctors recruited by BMPT, full/part time or patient/specialist report basis



Users and uses

Present usage:

- 8 doctors for consultations or specialist diagnostic reports
- Centres in 7 remote villages and 2 semi-urban locations
- Currently 300 to 500 patients taking service per month
- Last one month
 - Male: 43%, Female: 57%
 - Male (<=12 yrs, or >=60 yrs): 15%
 - 72% are women, children and old
- (suports an important contribution of the system)





Deliveries

- Establishment and retaining of 9 partner entrepreneurs for service centres
- Deployment of a cloud based patient management and prescription generation software, complemented by Skype for video conferencing
- Deployment of an electronic stethoscope and an ECG equipment,
 both online
- Retaining several doctors in the programme
- Maintaining a regular patient inflow
- Some patients visited multiple times indicating satisfaction.
- The partner entrepreneurs and doctors expressed satisfaction in general.
- Deficiencies are taken care of immediately through R&D or management adaptations

Business model

For a Rural Service Centre:

Investment: Tk. 80,000 to 120,000

Running cost: Tk. 18,000 per month

Patient fee: Tk.120 to Tk.150 per

consultation, extra for tests

Break even: 10 patients per day

Pay-back of investment: About 2 years

For the main centre:

Investment: Minimal (office equipment/computers. Most doctors use own computer)

Running Cost: Office, management team,

doctors (depends on no of service centres)

Break even: 30 patients per day per

doctor







TCV (Time-Cost-Visit) analysis

- Carried out by the a2i team
- On 135 patients served by first 5 rural centres in Faridpur and Madaripur
- Compared to the usual health service system (nearest doctor, Upazilla Health Complex, District hospitals, etc.) average time reduced by 56% and average cost reduced by 94% in Telemedicine
- The cost was low as patient fee was low initially (Tk.30 to 50), will increase somewhat but would still be low in comparison.
- Less visits needed (as early medication prevents subsequent complications)

Limitations

- i) Internet speed, slow sometimes, even for 3G (solution: switch to mobile phone for audio, Skype for video only)
- ii) Electrical power interruption (Laptop battery or IPS takes care)
- iii) Funds. Being a new concept, free or low fee service given initially. A2I grant provided support. Would be seeking for scale-up and donations from other sources.

POOR FUND

- Many poor patients need support for medicines and investigations
- We established a poor fund and are seeking donations, zakat and charity money
- A poor patient has to apply (form shown), entrepreneur has to certify for the support.
 Idea is to evoke trust, self prestige and dignity, to avoid abuse.

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় টেলিমেডিসিন কার্যক্রম
দরিদ্র ফাল্ড থেকে আর্থিক অনুদান চাওয়ার আবেদন পত্র
টেলিমেডিসিন সেবাকেন্দ্রের নামপ্রত্যেককে আলাদা করে টাইপ করে দেয়া হবে)
ইউনিয়ন উপজিলা
তারিখ:/ ২০১৬
আর্থিক সমস্যার কারণে আমার/আমার পরিবারের সদস্যের জরুরী চিকিৎসার খরচ সম্পূর্ণ বহুন করতে পারছি
না। অত্র টেলিমেডিসিন সেবাকেন্দ্র থেকে চিকিৎসকের পরামর্শ বাবদ মোটটাকা কেথায়:
টাকা মাত্র) বহন করতে পারব। তাই অবশিষ্ট টাকা আপনাদের দরিদ্র
ফাল্ড থেকে (যার মধ্যে যাকাতের টাকাও আছে জানতে পেরেছি) আমাকে অনুদান হিসেবে দেয়ার জন্য
আবেদন করছি।
রোগীর নামঃ
५५। यात्र ना बढ
মাতা/ পিতা/ স্বামী/ অভিভাবকের নাম:পশাঃ
(রোগী
শিশু হলে বা নিজস্ব আয় না থাকলে অভিভাবকের পেশা):
পারিবারিক গড় মাসিক আয়, টাকাঃ
ঢাবিঃ টেলিমেডঃ আইডি নং:মাবাইল নং:
গ্রামঃ ডাক্ঘরঃ
ইউনিয়নঃ উপজেলাঃ
ধন্যবাদান্তে,
রোগীর/ রোগীর অভিভাবকের স্বাক্ষর বা টিপসই
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
কেবলমাত্র দাপ্তরিক কাজের জন্যঃ
<u>ব্যাণীর/রোগীর অভিভাবকের সাথে আলাপ করে আমার কাছে প্রতীয়মান হয়েছে যে তার আর্থিক সমস্যা আছে</u>
এবং তিনি দরিদ্র ফান্ড থেকে অনুদান পাওয়ার উপযুক্ত। তিনি অত্র সেবাকেন্দ্র থেকে বর্তমান চিকিৎসা পরামর্শ
বাবদ মোটটাকা (কথায়ঃটাকা মাত্র) দিতে পারছেন।
চিকিৎসকের পরামর্শ বাবদ বাকীটাকা তাকে দরিদ্র ফাল্ড থেকে অনুদান দেয়ার জন্য
¬
অনুমোদন করছি।
নাম:
টেলিমেডিসিন উদ্যোক্তা

User Feedback

We started to inculcate a spirit of service to mankind rather than business. Our model is based on trust, self prestige and dedication, which has given positive results.

- 1. Entrepreneurs motivated by the above concepts, expressed satisfaction on being part of a noble cause.
- 2. Most of them are pharmacists and are happy to provide improved service to their own people
- 3. They help poor patients normally, requested for a central support.
- 4. The pharmacists also can sell some more medicines
- 5. They feel patient number will increase within a few years when it will bring profit too.
- 6. Some opposition came from village practitioners but could be managed
- 7. Overall the entrepreneurs are satisfied with the quality of the doctors and the way they talk to patients.
- 8. Doctors are also satisfied with the system and for being able to help rural people.

Scalability

- The software developed can handle thousands of rural centres
- Model is easily scalable
- We plan for blocks of 30 rural centres under one management unit for efficient handling.

Promotional activities Picture gallery













Training of operators - gallery





1st Telemedicine Conference of DUTP, 8 April, 2016 Picture Gallery









Financial Support:

- Farm Fresh (initial phase, 2011)
- International Science Programme (ISP) of Uppsala University, Sweden (part of R&D activities contributed towards telemedicine) (2011-2016)
- Beximco Pharma (2014-16)
- * A2I (PMO-GOB, UNDP, USAID) (2015) (for field trial
- ISIF-Asia (Australia based) (2015-16) (for developing a mobile phone based telemedicine system with integrated diagnostic devices
- Zakat contributions from individuals (for poor fund, 2016)



Telemedicine Team of DUTP at their 1st Conference, 8 April 2016

Thank You