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Outlook of 2022 for the healthcare sector

The digital transformation in health services, fair access to healthcare solutions, mental health and wellness are no more buzz words. 2022 would be a year where we build robust foundations for such discourses.

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By Vijender Singh

The advent of the pandemic brought about a breakthrough moment for the [healthcare](#) sector. There came a dire need to dig beneath the surface to identify gaps of accessibility, affordability and acceptability of healthcare resources. On one hand, technology as a backbone evolved to meet the necessities of the tough times. On the other hand, humanity became an

asserting factor, among many, where various media were used to provide relevant and urgent solutions within the community.

Now more than two years later, sci-tech innovations and important discussions have surfaced under healthcare. The healthcare market is predicted to [rise to US\\$ 133.44 billion by 2022](#), i.e., thrice the value in FY21. The digital transformation in health services, fair access to healthcare solutions, mental health and wellness are no more buzz words. 2022 would be a year where we build robust foundations for such discourses.

HIT- Healthcare Information Technology

2022 shall be the year of IT in healthcare and Internet of Medical Things(IoMT). Today, diagnostic labs are not restricted to their traditional buildings. They move out to our homes, or any place we require the solution at. All this has been possible due to the ever-evolving technologies in the medical devices and diagnostics sector. The medical device market envisions an [increment to US\\$ 50 billion in 2025](#), which was at US\$ 10.36 billion in 2020. The government too has been proactive in the medical devices and diagnostics space. [The Indian Council](#)

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neglected while providing health services.

Setting up of infrastructure, response mechanisms and best practices that create touchpoints at the most remote areas are required. One successful step forward has been the setting up of Integrated Command and Control Centers. A crucial step, this year, shall be to close the digital divide so as to increase the accessibility of services and resources. It equally calls for awareness and education programs, enabling citizens to benefit from these touchpoints.

Moreover, healthcare is no more limited to physical health but mental health too.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

2022 seeks increased acceptability of discussions around mental health. People are more open to holding conversations around it and social stigma is reduced.

The overwhelming patient footfall at hospitals took a toll on healthcare workers. They experienced emotional, physical and professional stress. Besides, the ones infected had to bear the long durations of isolation and uncertainty. The ones who suffered the loss of near and dear ones or their jobs went through a difficult time. In all cases, conversations around mental health saw an uptick. However, it is imperative to establish that mental health is not an urban phenomenon. It shall cater to all irrespective of their socio-economic strata.

Moreover, our mental health is proportional to our wellness. Although the non-covid testing increased as a precautionary step, people are now more aware and serious about their overall health. A relay among the diagnostics, food, pharma and fitness sector is necessary. The following year shall maintain the momentum to work towards the nation's wellbeing, one person at a time.

Public Health

In 2022, the responsibility to prevent future outbreaks is shared by the government and the citizen. The way to lesser cases of any infectious disease, including Coronavirus is good immunity. RnD is required beyond the COVID study to ensure prevention and wellness go hand in hand.

The government launched the [National Digital Health Mission](#) in 2021 to actively record health data and respond to identified patterns of concern. Moreover, the fifth report of the [National Family Health Survey \(NFHS\)](#) shares comprehensive nationwide insights, but the way forward is to be identified. One key step shall be strengthening public-private partnerships to reach out timely among the masses.

Besides, training and medical infrastructure are to be built. The last reported expenditure on healthcare by the centre is estimated at 1.2% of the GDP(National Health Accounts, 2016-17), which shall reach 2.5% by 2025. The upcoming budget shall enable the healthcare sector to do justice to patients' expectations.

To Sum Up

Beyond the dark clouds of ever-mutating variants of COVID- 19 is a silver lining, the golden era of innovation. Currently ranking [under the top 20 markets](#) for medical devices, the Indian MedTech landscape will witness a boost. India is in able hands of first responders, researchers and device manufacturers, promising a year of nation's health and resilient economy.

By Vijender Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Metropolis Healthcare Ltd.

(DISCLAIMER: The views expressed are solely of the author and ETHealthworld

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