

Strengthening Urban Primary Healthcare Service Delivery through the Use of eHealth Programs in China, Nepal and Philippines [The **SUPER** Study]



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Background

The importance of primary healthcare (PHC) in providing accessible, affordable, and high-quality universal health coverage has long been recognized. What is lacking are effective strategies on how to strengthen PHC. Studies show that eHealth has the potential to enhance PHC service delivery in multiple ways. We propose to further explore the barriers and opportunities for eHealth utilization for PHC service delivery in urban settings in selected low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) in Asian Pacific region: China, Nepal, and Philippines.

Study Focus

eHealth, Primary Healthcare, Service Delivery

Status

Active

Location

China, Nepal and Philippines

Duration

March 1, 2018— December 31, 2019.

Principal Investigator

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Main Collaborators

- School of Health Sciences, Wuhan University, China
- Ministry of Health, Kathmandu University, and Tribhuvan University, Nepal
- Department of Health and University of the Philippines Manila, Philippines

Funders

- Asia Pacific Observatory, the World Health Organization
- Duke Kunshan University

Aims

There are four aims of this study :

- 1) To develop a taxonomy of eHealth for service delivery at the PHC level;
- 2) To systematically document use of eHealth technologies to strengthen urban PHC service delivery in three countries;
- 3) To identify barriers and facilitators to the utilization of eHealth technologies at PHC level;
- 4) To produce evidence-based implications to the integration of eHealth technologies in PHC service delivery, with a focus on LMICs.

Study Design

This is an exploratory study based on scoping reviews and qualitative research. The study consists of the following steps:

- Conducting a scoping review about the use of eHealth in urban PHC settings in LMICs;
- Based on the scoping review, conducting qualitative research through key-informant interviews and focus group discussions, to provide insights into eHealth and NCD management at PHC level;
- Drafting policy briefs on eHealth and NCD service delivery in urban PHC.



Impact

- Understanding the role of eHealth at PHC will give insights to how we can promote cost-effective use of eHealth technology for improving PHC service delivery;
- Experiences from the three countries about their eHealth situations will provide opportunities to mutual learning;
- Knowledge from this project may provide basis for future larger-scale health system research.