Chapter-8

Conclusion and Recommendations
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8.1 Conclusion

The application of e-health solutions has brought a number of advancements in the health care industry. E-health solutions across the globe have helped in improving the healthcare facilities across the globe in both developed and developing nations where e-healthcare system has been implemented. In an effort to provide healthcare conditions developing countries are striving to revolutionize their healthcare system using ICTs in many different ways. The present study focused on finding the pros and cons of rural healthcare sector in three districts; Hisar, Rewari and Kurukshetra. A number of issues examined include; poor ICT infrastructure and e-health technologies, lack of knowledge of patients, hospital management and staff in terms of e-healthcare technologies, lack of resources and infrastructure in hospitals and clinics.

Unless these challenges are addressed, the rural hospitals will continue to provide services that are inefficient, costly, inaccessible and substandard as is the case currently. This calls for a way to deal with these challenges, which have crippled the implementation of e-health solutions. The present study also proposed a sustainable e-healthcare model for its implementation in rural communities in future.
8.2 Recommendations

Recommendations on how to tackle the various challenges/barriers have been addressed below:

1. **Training:** Most of the Hospital/Clinic staff doesn’t have access to computers and therefore won’t know how to operate one. Some basic form of training is needed if e-healthcare system is to be implemented. The staff including doctors should be educated about the recent advance with respect to e-health system across the globe. When the staff will be educated they would be able to visualize the benefits of e-health solutions in a better way, which will push them towards implementation of e-health solutions in their respective hospitals.

2. **Funding:** Rural hospitals lack basic infrastructure and resources which could sustain a large number of patients with best treatment. This is mainly because of dearth in funding options. So in order to implement e-health solutions in a cheaper way, hospitals should purchase on-shelf softwares. The authorities can use open source softwares and facilitate implementation of hospital information systems, telemedicine and electronic health records in healthcare centers.

3. **Infrastructure:** The rural sector is lagging behind in terms of transportation system, resources, drug availability, power supply, networking, telephone operations etc. The government should work towards improving the infrastructure in the rural communities so that e-health solutions can be easily implemented in healthcare facility.
4. **Government Policies:** Government policies should be changed to support the use of IT within hospitals.

5. **Improvement in ICT infrastructure:** More computers should be purchased for hospitals and clinics. Internet networking should also be improved so that the information is managed easily. ICT professionals should be hired to maintain networks, and computer systems in case they crash out.

### 8.3 Scope for Further Research

The present study gives a background of the primary healthcare system in India, specifically focusing on rural communities. It also highlights the needs for the implementation of e-healthcare system. However, in future further research should answer questions like what steps have the other developing and developed nations taken during and after the implementation of e-healthcare system in order to sustain it? Also what are the logistics involved in the implementation of e-healthcare system throughout the country in terms of labor, education of healthcare personnels, capital, etc.