

ABSTRACT

Health sector in Pakistan is in a poorer state with lack of accessibility and health care services. Modern information and communication technologies (ICTs) have been identified as the key components in improving healthcare services and facilities. ICTs have the potential to help and improve the standard of health by delivering healthcare information to the healthcare communities, and services to the end-users in developing countries. The use of ICT in health care is referred to as “e-health”.

Research related to e-health is not new in the country many researchers have worked on it, but usually their focus remain on the different usage of ICT in health sector, initiatives related to e-health and different suggestions for the improvement of this sector. This research is significant because it not only highlights the initiatives related to e-health by the various institutes but it also focuses on the hurdles in the implementation of policies and projects. This study is novel as the medical universities of Sindh are studied, focusing on challenges and barriers in usage and implementation of e-health programs.

A conceptual framework is created in this research in order to collect and analyze data. Several factors including motivational factors, policy and planning, finance, HR development, infrastructure and applications / implementations are included in framework to assess the e-health status in medical universities of Sindh. The framework presents three levels: initial, medium, and final/ fully implemented. It is identified that e-health is

at its initial / infancy phase or just entered at medium level in the subject universities while facing many challenges and barriers. To increase the chances of success, it is important to make people / users ready to accept technology willingly before implementing e-health programs and projects.