Title: Integrated IT based Information system for Primary Health Care: Creating path for Universal health coverage

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Background

An effective Information technology (IT) based health information system can facilitate the re-design of Primary Health Care for achieving Universal Health Coverage

Methodology

The purpose of this research was to design and later evaluate an integrated Information technology based health information system in a primary health care setting. For our study we choose an urban primary healthcare centre providing health care to underprivileged population of about 30,000 people. The IT based health information system was designed based on a family folder concept which allows family members to be linked to their household. The registered individuals can then be enrolled into national health programmes such as Reproductive Child Health (RCH), National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) etc and tracked for due health services. The system development was undertaken in consultation with all stakeholders. The system has added features of SMS service, defining family member relationships, basic analytics and is linked to an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system (openMRS) managing clinical services. We used an open source software District health information system 2 tracker platforms to build our system.

Results

Till now we have registered about 50% households and more than 30% household member belonging to the community into the Health Information System. The system keeps track of all due ANCs, PNCs, and Immunization services and generates work-plan for health workers under RCH programme. The system also keeps track of more than 500 patients of Hypertension and Diabetes detected till now through

screening of above 30 year population under NPCDCS programme. The system allows generating reports, automated SMSs for sending service reminders, scheduling visits and Health Education.

Conclusion

The IT based information systems developed keeping in view the health needs of the community can be a key enabler for achieving Universal Health coverage.