Artificial Intelligence (AI) has redefined the healthcare sector in UAE, and has the potential to boost global GDP by 14 per cent by 2030

Science and technology are making daily lives easier world over and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is harnessing the power of science and human intelligence in a unique way. In the past few years, AI has taken over every industry in every country. According to a research by Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC), AI has the potential to boost global GDP by 14 per cent by 2030 and this could be equivalent to USD 15.7 trillion. PwC report has also highlighted that the adoption of AI solutions will increase the UAE’s GDP by USD 96 billion by 2030. Dubai’s digital wave in healthcare has also led to boundless opportunities for the Indian medical industry.

**REINVENTING HEALTHCARE**

Be it tracing new links between genetic codes or conducting surgeries assisted by robots, AI is reinventing modern healthcare. The biggest advantage of AI is that it can predict, comprehend, learn, and act. The government of UAE has introduced a slew of technology and is currently testing several innovations in healthcare. Health analysis pods, which are currently under tests, assist people to monitor health and detect early signs of illness. Besides, UAE is planning to introduce an AI-enabled 24/7 video consultancy to patients from around the world. Another breakthrough, HINT (Healthcare and Innovative New Technology) helps in detecting strokes. Recently, Dubai Healthcare Authority (DHA) announced that it will begin implementation of AI technology in diabetes retinopathy across its health facilities.

"Artificial intelligence in healthcare can help in better data-driven decisions, increased disease diagnosis efficiency, integration of information, enhance patient care by supporting medical functions with data-driven information and improve administrative efficiency," said Dr Mohammed Al Redha, Director of Project Management Office and Informatics and Smart Health, DHA.

**3D PRINTING: THE FUTURE**

It was in April 2016, when Dubai announced its plans to become a top regional and international player in 3D printing with emphasis on the healthcare sector. Today, 3D printing solutions in healthcare are a top priority for Dubai.

Recently, medical experts from DHA collaborated with Sintrex an additive manufacturing healthcare specialist firm to set up 3D Printing labs in DHA hospitals. A recent study published in September by Academic Radiology estimated that hospitals using anatomical models could save more than USD 3,700 per surgery by reducing time spent in the Operating Theatre.

Dubai, the most populous city in the UAE, is spearheading the AI revolution. While medical tourism is on the rise, Dubai is increasingly putting efforts to use cutting-edge technology and innovation in healthcare sector.

Under the patronage of DHA and in partnership with Meddicin, Mercurius and Immensa Technology Labs, an Emirati double amputee recently became the first to receive 3D printed transfabil prosthetics. "In line with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the DHA has prioritised fostering the development of future technologies such as 3D printing in healthcare to provide high-quality patient-centric care," said his Excellency Humaid Al Qutami, Director-General, DHA.

**A DOCTOR FOR EVERY CITIZEN**

Apart from AI and 3D printing, Telemedicine is fast emerging as one of the most convenient modes of treatments, Dubai Government is working towards providing a unique telehealth service, it ensures immediate access to specialised consultation which can be a boon in terms of medical emergencies. These services will provide access to medical professionals 24/7 to the public. Telemedicine is seen as a new platform to generate a new mode of revenue and can also boost employment. Just when time and mobility constraints are preventing many from picking up prescriptions, Telemedicine has proven to be a boon.

DHA’s RoboDoc is one such initiative that has made life easier for many.

**HEALTHCARE VIA SMARTPHONES**

Another stellar example of accessible healthcare is DHA’s mobile application Tiffi. This is a mobile app that has been specifically developed for expectant parents in general, and pregnant mothers in particular, Tiffi offers a personalised evidence-based content to help parents to navigate effortlessly through pregnancy, childbirth and parenthood. The application offers access to different DHA hospitals and doctors. The application lets you monitor daily activity, log medication, monitor blood pressure, track weight, find the right doctor,

**AUTOMATION IS COOL**

In 2018, DHA launched smart pharmacies that use robots for dispensing and prescribing medication. The robots in these pharmacies can store up to 35,000 medicines and dispense around nine prescriptions in less than a minute. The prescribed medications are dispensed with a click of a barcode, experts believe that this to a great extent minimises human error. "We are proud to offer this service to our patients. We constantly aim to further improve patient experience and comfort; we now have five smart pharmacies that have helped not only patients but also made the system more efficient and helped pharmacists as well," said Dr Ali Al Sayed, Director of the Pharmaceutical Services Department, DHA.

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