

# SSY115 - Health Informatics

## Peer review of Group 1 Introducing eHealth in developing countries

By

**Group 3**

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May 28, 2021



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First of all, great job! You present many interesting aspects of an important subject and highlight both challenges and possibilities related to your topic. It was an engaging reading which inspired new ideas for us as readers. Below, we will present some of the main thoughts we had while reading your report. For simplicity, we have based the work on the project evaluation guidelines.

## Language, structure and logic

The vocabulary usage was good, with an overall suiting level of difficulty for a general reader to understand. There are only a few spelling and grammatical errors and linguistic inconsistencies (such as the usage of both *health care* and *healthcare* on p. 5 and p. 6 and "...*treatment will decreased*" on p. 3). Further, it was helpful that some critical concepts were explained early on (e.g. *Developed vs developing countries* and *The importance of eHealth*). However, a few aspects which could have been improved are

- While an entire paragraph is subjected to only one reference in for example section 4.1 and 4.2, repetitive usage could have been avoided (see e.g. reference number 2, 3, 12, 13 and 18). This could also have been done to efficiently guide the reader towards relevant sources for further information.
- The interview transcript could have been in the form of Q/A.
- A general reader is not aware of the term *EDS* used in methods section.

The hindrances like network issues, ratio of smartphone users, geographical coverage while implementing eHealth solutions in developing countries have been well formulated with proper case studies. The introduction to the report is excellent and the methodology followed to write the report was good. Especially since the entire group have reviewed many online articles and interviewed two health care professionals for a better quality report. Very good and interesting approach!

## Limitations and research

The report is well-written, needed and provides a useful summary of the current status of eHealth solutions in developing countries. Various aspect of the topic are investigated and an interesting comparative analysis from different continents perspective is performed. Very strong and well structured introduction and result section. However, a considerable amount of information was presented and it could therefore have been helpful to remind the reader and give a broader overview by summing up the most important aspects in a table at the end of the result section. As of research, there is a good choice of sources, which is enhanced by the interview conducted. Even though many online references cited, most of them are from reliable website and date of retrieve has been stated. Overall, even though there are few minor comments, from the report it is clear that students put many effort in writing and researching.

## Analysis

The report gives a beautiful scientific perspective on a field that is recently booming in developing countries amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. However, a little opinion about the following factors could have been considered from a general reader's point of view.

- In the abstract section, the inequality factor of '*availability*' seems to be incomplete. This refers to availability of resources or anything else?
- While the income per capita is given for developing countries, the average expense of healthcare expenses in various developing countries could have been highlighted to have a comparative overview.
- The app ECU-911 has not been widely used as stated in the report but more than required explanation is given. Alternatively, more focus on apps that are in use and successful could have been explained in detail.
- The figures 3-6 under sections 4.4 and 4.5 show great statistical data and analysis but the text in the images was a bit too small.
- Section 4.5 - A Health Informatics student would be more interested to know how the willingness and readiness of implementing eHealth solutions can be proved to WHO? This could provide a useful insight on deeper understanding of the subject.
- Data flow in the apps could have been expressed in figures for simpler interpretation.

While the measures taken to conduct the interviews with predetermined questions should be highly appreciated, another interesting topic was "What could be done in Ecuador" shows a great level of interest and a successful measure to implement eHealth solutions. Especially the usage of terms like '*digital illiteracy*' is an eye opener to provide accessibility for non smartphone users to get access to the app. The entire team has shown a good collaboration to work on the report and a good example for team craftsmanship.

## Discussion and conclusion

The main aim of the project (as stated in section 1.3) was to collect information on the current status of eHealth solutions in developing countries. This is mentioned in the first paragraph of the conclusion but could have been more strongly connected to the aims by reminding the reader of the (very interesting!) interviews. Despite the mentioning of some successful implementations (e.g. online booking or apps) it would also have been efficient to explicitly guide the reader towards the main conclusions regarding less successful implementations. Further, since Africa, South America and Asia are specifically mentioned in the aim section, it would have been good to highlight the main conclusions regarding their similarities and differences. The final aim of the project was to identify what has been and what could be done in this area in Ecuador. The conclusions regarding what can be done is very clear and easy to follow. There are specific steps of what Ecuador can do to implement eHealth, where funding from WHO is presented as the most important. However, there is no information about what has already been done. In summary, the information presented in the conclusion section could have been more connected to the aims of the project. However, everything that is presented is easy to follow and very relevant to the subject. The final sentence leaves the reader on a positive note, with a clear optimistic future prospect. Furthermore, there are additional conclusions presented under the result and discussion sections. For instance, the resistance among health care workers to use digital solutions is discussed as an important factor to consider when implementing eHealth (last paragraph, section 4.2). Thus, the overall impression of the report is an efficient discussion with many interesting conclusions related to each topic. Great job!