Project Overview-

The idea for **CareNow** stemmed from the urgent need for accessible healthcare in rural areas, where medical facilities and doctors are often scarce. In many rural regions, people face difficulties in accessing timely health information and emergency services. This inspired me to create a mobile application that can bridge this gap by offering critical healthcare tools, enabling rural communities to manage their health more effectively. By providing access to disease information, doctor-finding services, medication tracking, and emergency resources, I wanted to ensure that even those in remote areas could have access to vital healthcare support at their fingertips.

Building **CareNow** was a significant learning experience in many ways. I learned to design an app that prioritizes simplicity and clarity, keeping in mind the technical literacy and needs of rural users. Understanding the constraints of limited internet access in rural areas helped me incorporate features that allow users to access information even with intermittent connectivity. I enhanced my understanding of Android development, working with various components to ensure the app runs smoothly on different types of devices.

I used Java in Android Studio to develop the app. Local caching was used to make disease and emergency information available offline. Users can locate doctors based on their specialty and their contacts, helping them connect to the right healthcare professional. The app provides detailed, easy-to-understand descriptions of diseases, symptoms, and preventive measures, aimed at helping users manage common illnesses on their own. A simplified medication reminder system, ensuring rural users can easily track their medication schedules and never miss a dose. One-touch calling for important healthcare-related emergency contacts such as ambulance services, poison control etc. in areas with poor connectivity is another significant feature of the project. Lastly, real-time updates on healthcare topics are provided to keep users informed of any health concerns, outbreaks, or general advice relevant to their area.

Many rural areas have limited or inconsistent internet access, so I had to ensure the app could function effectively offline. This involved implementing local caching and minimizing the reliance on live data. Ensuring that health information was available in simple language was key to making the app more accessible to rural users. Creating a feature-rich app while keeping it lightweight to support the lower-end devices commonly used in rural areas was another challenge.

**CareNow** aims to provide critical healthcare information and services in a simple, accessible format, empowering rural communities to take control of their health, especially in areas where medical resources are limited.

Java (for Android app development), Android SDK framework, Android Studio, News API (for real-time healthcare news updates), Android's AlarmManager and JSON Parsing (for reading news articles).

"CareNow: Empowering rural communities with a comprehensive healthcare app for finding doctors, tracking medications, accessing disease information, and receiving emergency support—all in one place!"