

**Q2.** Based on the following argumentative statement, write an **INTRODUCTION** and **ONE BODY PARAGRAPH** to develop any **one** of the arguments from your thesis statement. You must incorporate relevant information from the following two excerpts in the **body paragraph** by using proper in-text citations and references. **(4 + 6 + 1 + 1 = 12 marks).**

**Argumentative statement:**

**Telemedicine must be widely implemented to improve healthcare practices in Bangladesh**

**You must synthesize relevant information from BOTH the excerpts below to develop your body paragraph.**

**Excerpt A**

**Telemedicine: A change for the better**

**Shubhashish Chakraborty Turjoy**

**July 31, 2021**

**The Financial Express (Online Newspaper)**

**<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/views/reviews/telemedicine-a-change-for-the-better-1627714612>**

Many private and government organisations are now providing telemedicine in Bangladesh. Telemedicine is a system that enables a patient to consult a doctor electronically, over the phone, or via video call. Here, the doctor can advise and prescribe medicine upon inspection. Minor illnesses such as fever, stomachache, headache and even symptoms of Covid-19 can be checked out by telemedicine. “This has helped us to treat more patients efficiently,” said a medical officer working at Shastho Batayon, a national medical call centre run by the government of Bangladesh. “There are a lot of people who buy medicines from pharmacies without any consultation. By talking to us, people can get the proper medical advice.”

With easy access to doctors, patients can verify the need and type of medicine from experts instead of consuming it impulsively. Moreover, in rural areas where the number of doctors is insignificant compared to the number of patients, telemedicine can help patients consult doctors from anywhere. This facility has also helped older people stay in constant touch with doctors without any hassle.

Understandably, telemedicine is a mode of consultancy for only mild cases or symptoms. For severe cases, getting admitted to a hospital or seeing a doctor in person for the most effective treatment is always advised. “Whenever we feel that the patient may be showing symptoms of severe cases such as cardiac arrest, stroke, etc., we right away advise them to get admitted to their nearest hospital,” said Dr Salauddin. “We have to remember that telemedicine is effective as long as it is not a severe case.” **(Edited)**

### **Excerpt B**

**Lower cost, higher quality health care is right at our fingertips**

**John C. Goodman**

**July 23, 2018**

**Forbes (Online Magazine)**

**<https://www.forbes.com/sites/johngoodman/2018/07/23/lower-cost-higher-quality-health-care-is-right-at-our-fingertips/>**

In the developed world, people typically pay for healthcare in two ways: time and money. Most often, individuals spend more time than money on healthcare, facing long wait times or having to travel great distances for care. For low-income patients, the time cost of obtaining care is generally a more significant barrier than the financial cost. Telemedicine has the potential to address this issue, provided we embrace it.

Telemedicine offers various benefits, including increased access to healthcare, especially for individuals in remote or underserved areas. It reduces travel time and costs for patients and provides the convenience of consultations from home. Additionally, telemedicine allows for quicker access to specialists, enhances patient engagement in their own care, and can improve the management of chronic diseases through more frequent contact with healthcare providers.

There are also substantial financial advantages associated with telemedicine. It reduces travel expenses, lowers overhead costs for healthcare facilities, and decreases overall patient costs. For example, in 2018, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) estimated that telemedicine saved Medicare patients \$60 million on travel, with forecasts predicting savings of \$100 million by 2024 and \$170 million by 2029. Typically, telehealth services are less costly than in-person visits, with a national median cost of about \$50 for a video-based consultation compared to \$85 for a visit to a doctor’s office.

Telemedicine enables patients to receive medical consultations and follow-up appointments remotely, eliminating the need for travel. This convenience leads to shorter waiting times, faster

access to healthcare providers, and more flexible scheduling. Consequently, both patients and healthcare professionals can save valuable time that would otherwise be spent commuting and waiting in clinics or hospitals.

Lauren Faison, Director of Telehealth at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (TMH), a non-profit community hospital in Florida, estimates that telemedicine has saved TMH \$1 million annually by reducing readmissions and trips to the emergency room. This financial benefit allows the hospital to provide care to more patients, who consequently report higher satisfaction with the services they receive. **(Edited)**