Linking a Unique Identification (Aadhaar Card) of Indians to Dental and Medical records

Keywords: Medical, Dental, Records, Aadhar, Population

In 2021, India has 17.35% of the world's population.1 With a mega-diversity of four and a half thousand anthropologically different populations and approximately 19,500 different linguistics and dialects, India also inherits limitless challenges. India is a third-world nation with boundless modern-day challenges for healthcare like a doctor- patients ratio, distribution of resources in rural and urban parts, a widespread practice of quackery and lies, deceptions, and false accusations spread about the noble medical practice and practitioners. A more lethal exploit is the concealing of case-related details by patients. India has one of the highest prevalence and active cases of chronic infectious and spreading diseases. Poor sanitation, lack of access to fresh air, water, and food, lack of education on oral and health hygiene are some of the massive challenges of the 21st century. The digitalization race of Generation “Z” has further escalated the gaps between doctors and patients. With health checkups via mobile apps, the doctors are losing the basic touch of the hand-to-hand experience with patients.

Reports by NACO and other agencies show the rise of infectious diseases like HIV2, HBV3, HCV4, Tuberculosis5, and Leprosy in India. The Indian laws are such that, any patient can file a report to any doctors and disgrace their practice, but the doctor can in now ways guard themselves while serving humanity. Concealing medical history happens in our society due to social stigma and sometimes additional expenditure when a diagnosis of infectious disease is present.

As such, for the welfare of doctors, dentists, and paramedics, a unique medical record for each patient which is accessible to all healthcare professionals is crucial. A patient from one part of the country, when visiting another doctor in a different region/state may sometimes obscure or tamper reports. With accessibility and a common record, we can impart fair treatment and keep away from quackery. Further, ease of identification of patient’s identity and medical-dental records would be critical in accidents and trauma cases, when a patient is unconscious and forensics. A unique untampered record would be decisive to ascertain the patient’s behavior, records, and response to treatment and save the doctor’s time.

As Indian and its medical science has always led the world, from time immortal from Ayurveda to Sushrutha book to surgery to being the world’s pharmacy in 2021, it wouldn’t be a surprise to see stem cells research taking a breakthrough soon enough in India. As such, an Aadhaar linked to all medical and dental records would smoothen the transformation and helps us in gene and genome-related accessibility in the future.

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