

# **Chapter 1**

## **Introduction**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Increasing health information needs and changes in information seeking behaviour can be observed around the globe. According to recent studies 81% of U.S. adults use the Internet and 59% say they have looked online for health information regarding diseases, diagnoses and different treatments. Thus, patients tend to become active participants in the decision-making process. However, information overload and irrelevant information are major obstacles for drawing conclusions on the personal health status and taking adequate actions. Faced with a large amount of medical information on different channels (e.g., news sites, web forums, etc.) users often get lost or feel uncertain when investigating on their own. Therefore, improved personalized delivery of medical content can support users in finding relevant information.

Thus, the purpose of this project is to provide users the correct information about medicines. This is a recommendation system which recognizes and treats diseases by recommending the proper aid for it. Symptoms of the patient are taken as input and the proper treatment for it given as output.

### **1.2 Aim and Objective**

Our project aims at making a system where consumers will be able to find health resources at many different levels. Levels such as:

- antibiotics
- herbal medicines
- vaccinations

Aiming to increase the use of generic medicines, which can be used as an alternate for the other higher priced medicines. Consumers should be aware of the side effects caused by the medicines they are prescribed for. The consumer should have adequate knowledge about the use and the effects of medicines. Enhancing the patient-physician relationship as the patient will have enough