Back ing health startups

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A CROSS India, various startups and innovators in public, private and not for profit sectors are actively working towards building solutions, which can bridge the gap between the comprehensive healthcare needs of population with healthcare providers. Presently, when healthcare market in India is expected to grow to between $450 million and $470 million by 2022 there still remains a requirement of approximately 3.2 million hospital beds in the country. In terms of manpower, our health institutions are facing a crucial demand for over 6 million nurses and 2 million doctors.

With the rise in technological advancements, there is an urgent need for policymakers in India to harness the power of technology driven innovations to bridge the demand supply gap and achieve a universal health system that is accessible, equitable, high quality and affordable. Solutions like shifting point of care (facilitating patient recovery at home), preventive care (early diagnosis and rapid treatment) and m-health (tech alternative which reduces stress on hospital infrastructure) are ways in which the universal healthcare access can be enabled. With application of such cost effective solutions, the sector could save up to $90 billion in capital costs.

India should ignite the imagination of its brightest minds to solve toughest challenges facing the country’s health system covering its scale, complexities and resource mobilisation constraints. These efforts require a supporting eco system to succeed in their efforts to improve India’s health outcomes. Unleashing health innovation will require the government to embrace startups and the private sector that are at the cutting edge of technology and disruptive delivery models. Innovation is boundaryless and it will transcend the public, private, nonprofit and geographical boundaries.

The leaders in the sector are looking for viable solutions that have the potential to drive further efficiencies of cost, more personalised healthcare solutions and increase patient access in remote areas. Identifying these factors, various homegrown startups are working towards providing solutions, which can bridge the provider-consumer gap.

India needs to set up a dedicated health innovation agency in the government to exclusively focus on improving the commercialisation and adoption/diffusion opportunities for health-tech startups to create sustainable revenue and scale. It means changing the procurement, payment and adoption norms across the health system.

Innovation will thrive when there is shift to strategic value based public procurement that rewards quality and improvement in outcomes. A major purchaser of healthcare like Ayushman Bharat can create a fund that rewards innovation and allows a purchaser to be strategic. Creating an innovation fund is first step, but building and management of a lasting eco system requires culture and process change. For instance, domestic manufacturing of medical devices will require a supportive ecosystem for medical devices innovation. The essentials of building such a cohesive environment would require addressing challenges like high import duties on raw materials for medical devices (70-90 per cent medical electronics are imported), tax restrictions on setting up manufacturing centers and a limited talent pool with medical device expertise. To address this shortcoming as well as build an inclusive healthcare think-tank, India should build a portal that can link innovators with mentors and investors who are knowledgeable about health eco-system. The mentors should connect innovators with resources and network required to help the sector thrive and scale with impact.

Leveraging artificial intelligence, analytics and automation can help the sector with challenges like standardising health data and creating interoperability definitions. We历史新高 the announcements made in the 2017 health policy shall start getting implemented in 2019. For example, the policy proposes establishment of the national digital health authority (NDHA) to regulate, develop and deploy digital health across the continuum of care. Witnessing the execution of the vision plan into reality will reinforce the support to healthcare startup ecosystem. With this vision in mind, startups should focus on the 4As– affordability, accessibility, availability and awareness – which act as essential spokes in the wheel of growth for medical sector. This strategy will help in building an extensive network of digital tools, which can integrate these features for enhanced efficiency and outcome.

(The writer is the president of Nathealth)
Siddhartha Bhattacharya joins Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) as Secretary General

NATHEALTH announced the appointment of Siddhartha Bhattacharya as Secretary General, effective

In his new role, Siddhartha will lead the organization and work with key partners in realizing NATHEALTH’s vision/mission to spearhead the goal of high quality, affordable health for all.

“Siddhartha Bhattacharya is very well respected and one of the most seasoned and dedicated healthcare leaders of India,” said Mr. Daljit Singh, President NATHEALTH. “His decades of experience in launching successful partnerships in the public and private healthcare sectors and extensive background in healthcare systems and technology will be a tremendous asset to NATHEALTH. We are delighted to welcome him on board.”

“NATHEALTH, as a thought leader of the healthcare sector of our country, is uniquely positioned to shape the dialogue and catalyse the evolution of a high quality, affordable health systems across India, that match up to the best in the world. In pursuit of universal health coverage, it is important that all industry partners align with the vision of better health outcomes at better value,” said Mr. Bhattacharya. “I am excited to be part of this transformation and look forward to working with key partners in making an impact.”

Siddhartha brings over twenty years of leadership experience in health, technology and technology enabled services sector across India and USA. Siddhartha has leadership experience in both Public and Private Sectors in India where he has been responsible for strategic advisory services, operational delivery and technology leadership in the health sector.

Mr. Bhattacharya joins NATHEALTH from ACCESS Health International, a leading health think tank and advisory group with a mission to improve access to high quality, affordable healthcare for people everywhere. As Country Director in India, Siddhartha was responsible for organizational leadership and worked extensively in areas that drove scalable innovation in healthcare delivery, financing, and technology. Siddhartha led the think tank, advisory services, implementation support and innovation transfer programs of ACCESS Health India office and drove the functional integration with global offices.

Prior to ACCESS Health, Siddhartha worked with Emergency Management and Research Institute (GVK EMRI), where he served as Chief Operating Officer and Technology Head for four years. He oversaw the design, development, and delivery of health outreach services, which resulted in improved delivery of emergency health services across multiple states and union territories in India. Mr. Bhattacharya has also held prior leadership positions at Dell, Inc. (USA), Dell International Services (India), Philips (India), and the Government of Kerala, where he was Chief Executive Officer of Information Technology parks across the state.
सिद्धार्थ भट्टाचार्य महासचिव नियुक्त

नेटहेल्थ में सिद्धार्थ भट्टाचार्य को महासचिव नियुक्त किया गया है। अपनी नई भूमिका में वह सभी के लिए उच्च गुणवत्ता, किफायती स्वास्थ्य के लक्ष्य का प्रसार करने के लिए संगठन का नेतृत्व करेंगे। नेटहेल्थ के प्रेसिडेंट डॉ. दलजीत सिंह ने कहा कि सिद्धार्थ देश के सबसे अनुभवी और समर्पित हेल्थकेयर लीडर्स में से एक हैं।
नयी दिल्ली: नैरोग्य ने सिद्धार्थ भट्टाचार्य को शनिवार से प्रभावी महासचिव के रूप में नियुक्त करने की घोषणा की। अपनी नई भूमिका में, सिद्धार्थ सभी के लिए उच्च गुणवत्ता, किफायती स्वास्थ्य के लक्ष्य का प्रसार करने के लिए संगठन का नेतृत्व करेंगे और नैरोग्य के दृष्टिकोण/मिशन को साक्षर करने में प्रमुख भागीदारों के साथ काम करेंगे। नैरोग्य के प्रेसिडेंट डॉ. दलजीत सिंह ने कहा कि सिद्धार्थ भट्टाचार्य का सार्वजनिक और निजी स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्रों में सफल साझेदारी शुरू करने और हैल्थकेयर प्रणालियों और प्रौद्योगिकी में व्यापक पृष्ठभूमि शुरू करने में उनका दंशकों का अनुभव नैरोग्य के लिए बेहतर साबित होगा।