REVIEW ARTICLE

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence Tools to Bridge the Healthcare Gap in Rural Areas in India

Ajit Kerketta[1*], Sathiyaseelan Balasundaram[2]

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Abstract

Background: Rural areas continue to grapple with a lack of access to healthcare despite the development of technologies like telehealth, artificial intelligence (AI), virtual and mixed reality, nanotechnology, and robotics. However, there are encouraging ways to get beyond these obstacles with the advent of AI tools. To close the healthcare gap in rural India, the research explores the viability and effectiveness of implementing AI solutions.

Methods: A scoping review was used in the study to help define its objectives and parameters as well as to examine the efficacy and potential of AI tools in bridging the gap in rural healthcare. The information was taken from a number of databases such as PubMed, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar that contained English-language publications from January 2020 to December 2023. The data were recorded and screened with the help of electronic data processing software called "Rayyan," and the results were displayed thematically.

Findings: The study shows how AI-driven solutions could be used to address and overcome healthcare access gaps, highlighting the potential for implementing AI technologies in rural healthcare settings. In order to successfully incorporate AI tools, the report also identifies barriers to their acceptance in rural healthcare and suggests joint efforts by healthcare providers, policymakers, and technology developers. In order to adopt AI in rural areas, this study requires supporting investments in capacity-building programs, digital infrastructure, and supportive legislative frameworks.

Conclusion: The paper emphasizes how AI is transforming healthcare in rural India and closing the gap in access. Healthcare professionals and legislators can overcome obstacles, provide local healthcare staff with better infrastructure, and enhance health outcomes for rural regions by utilizing AI technologies. The conclusions and suggestions help to advance the body of knowledge on using AI to provide appropriate healthcare, which will direct similar projects in the future.

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Introduction

It is a fundamental need to have access to high-quality healthcare regardless of caste, creed, or origin.[1–3] However, not everyone has access to high-quality healthcare, especially those who live in rural areas, where, unfortunately, half of the world's population resides.[4] Even in India, where 68.2% of the population lives in rural regions, healthcare needs remain stressful. Consequently, inadequate healthcare negatively affects the quality of life in rural communities.[5] The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how ready India was to provide healthcare and has highlighted the urgent need for international cooperation in mobilizing resources and utilizing cutting-edge technologies to accelerate the development of critical healthcare solutions. The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) offers a potential technical path that addresses these issues and improves rural communities' access to healthcare. AI is a large and well-established field that involves computers, especially computer systems, simulating human intelligence processes.[6] Machine learning, knowledge representation, reasoning, robotics, and speech recognition are some of the instruments used in these processes. By using AI techniques and expert systems, healthcare facilities' deficiencies have been addressed, improving access to care, diagnosis accuracy, treatment plan optimization, patient outcomes, and cost savings.[7,8] This study examines how AI tools will close the healthcare gap in India's rural areas, gives a summary of the situation of rural healthcare today, discusses the potential advantages and disadvantages of AI tools, and presents the results of an empirical investigation into the usefulness of AI tools in these settings. Recommendations for AI tools for further study and application in rural healthcare will be included in the study's conclusion.

Background

Lack of healthcare facilities, insufficient infrastructure, and an absence of healthcare providers are common characteristics of rural areas.[9] These communities have endured decades of poor-quality healthcare facilities and the weight of unequal healthcare delivery, contributing to an increasing disparity in healthcare. Geographic remoteness, transportation issues, a lack of healthcare awareness, a shortage of medical professionals, and financial limitations all provide obstacles to their access to healthcare.[10] But effective technology adoption in rural healthcare systems is possible if healthcare personnel are trained on AI applications and are aware of the healthcare needs in these areas.[11] A potentially useful instrument that can overcome these obstacles and increase the approach to healthcare services in the rural areas is AI.

Artificial Intelligence in Rural Healthcare

Rather than taking the place of medical personnel, AI use in healthcare applications improves outcomes.[12] Nevertheless, these applications present chances to guarantee the supply of quality healthcare.[13] AI implementation has made telemedicine possible, enabling patients in remote locations to get medical care from a distance. AI technologies have also aided in diagnostic imaging and screening, making it possible for medical professionals in remote places to more accurately diagnose and treat patients. Additionally, AI has helped to optimize the logistics of healthcare, including the administration of medical equipment and supplies, and remote patient monitoring. These advancements hold the potential to lower costs, boost operational effectiveness, and improve patient outcomes. Several examples show how AI tools can be successfully integrated into rural healthcare. The effectiveness and accuracy of rural telemedicine consultations were found to be

[1]Research Scholar; [2]Professor and Area Chair, Department of School of Business and Management, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, Karnataka, India; *Corresponding Author

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enhanced by AI-based decision support tools, according to research published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research (JMIR).[14] AI-based screening approaches have been shown to increase the diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy in rural areas, according to a different study published in the Journal of Medical Systems.[15]

But in the next 10 years, AI promises to increase the quality, affordability, and accessibility of healthcare services, which will completely change the way that healthcare is provided in rural areas. Thus, the study's objectives were to lessen healthcare differences in India's rural areas and evaluate the effectiveness of applying AI methods.

Literature Review

In rural places, access to high-quality healthcare is severely limited. About 20% of Americans reside in rural areas, where there are only 9% of physicians, according to data from the National Rural Health Association (NRHA).[16] Several factors contribute to the disparity in healthcare accessibility, such as a lack of medical staff, a remote location from medical facilities, and insufficient funding for healthcare services in rural areas. The healthcare gap in rural areas can be reduced because of recent advancements in AI. Patients in faraway locations may receive timely and accurate medical care because of AI technologies like chatbots, telemedicine, and diagnostic algorithms. Particularly when it comes to providing healthcare services to rural areas, telemedicine works well.[17] According to a different study by Hollander et al., telemedicine helps patients in remote places receive specific treatment, saving them money and time on their travels.[18]

According to a study, chatbots were successful in giving medical advice for minor health issues.[19] Furthermore, AI-based diagnostic algorithms could help medical personnel make correct diagnoses, especially in places where there is a shortage of medical specialists.[20] But there are other issues with using AI in healthcare, especially in remote places. A concern is that some patients would not have access to AI tools, especially those who do not have internet connections or live in low-income households. Another issue is that AI technologies cannot take the position of human interaction in the healthcare industry, which is crucial for establishing a relationship of confidence between patients and healthcare professionals.[11,12,21]

Artificial intelligence tools hold the potential to reduce healthcare disparities in rural areas; though, additional study is necessary to evaluate their longer-term effects and address issues with equity and accessibility. To improve healthcare access in rural areas, healthcare professionals and legislators should study the utilization of AI tools, while simultaneously recognizing and addressing any potential obstacles or issues related to their uses.

Rural Healthcare Gaps

Providing rural communities with affordable healthcare is a global issue, and India is not an exception. These challenges involve a lack of qualified healthcare workers, a general lack of knowledge about health issues, poor infrastructure, and poor medical results. One doctor for every 5,854 people living in rural areas makes India one of the countries with the lowest doctor-to-population ratios in the world, as per a National Health Profile report.[19] Long wait times and restricted access to healthcare services are the results of the healthcare worker shortage. The provision of healthcare is hampered by the lack of sanitation facilities, water, and electricity in many rural health centers.

Inadequate healthcare providers, infrastructure, and healthcare literacy have also frequently been blamed for the poor outcomes of healthcare in rural areas.[22] In rural populations, these deficiencies have led to increased rates of malnutrition, infectious illnesses including malaria and tuberculosis, and child and maternal mortality.[23]

Nonetheless, to close the healthcare gap in rural areas, the Indian government has started a number of rural health projects. As part of the National Health Mission to improve healthcare access in rural areas, these initiatives include the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, Mobile Medical Units (MMUs), Aarogya Setu, the CoWIN app, e-Hospital, e-Sanjeevani, Online Registration System, e-Blood Bank, e-RAKTKOSH, Teleconsultation and Services e-Health Assistance, and telemedicine.[24] At the local level, these programs still underutilize the assistance that they may provide to rural communities in accessing healthcare.

Telemedicine in a Rural Setting

Numerous research has shown how AI-powered medical technologies might enhance patient outcomes in remote locations. AI tools have been demonstrated to improve patient outcomes, aid healthcare providers in making decisions, and improve illness detection and diagnosis.[25] For instance, AI techniques can increase diagnosis accuracy and help in disease early detection, like cancer.[26] AI solutions also assist healthcare providers in tracking patient progress, managing patient data, and forecasting patient outcomes. Some important discoveries from earlier studies are:

Clinical Decision-making

Artificial intelligence provides real-time patient data analysis and individualized therapy recommendations to help healthcare providers make clinical decisions. AI-based decision support systems have been shown to enhance clinical decision-making across a range of healthcare specializations, as per a systematic analysis published in the JMIR in 2021.[27]

Diagnostic Accuracy

Artificial intelligence has demonstrated significant promise for raising diagnostic precision across a range of medical professions. As an example, a 2020 research study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) discovered that an AI system performed better at diagnosing breast cancer than human pathologists.[28,29]

Patient Outcome Prediction

Artificial intelligence is capable of analyzing vast amounts of patient data in order to forecast patient results and advise therapeutic choices. A 2020 research study published in the Journal of Medical Informatics discovered that hospitalized patients' mortality forecasts were more accurate when using an AI-based risk prediction model.[30] But there have also been worries about the moral and legal implications of applying AI to healthcare, including issues like accountability, algorithm bias, and data privacy. To solve these issues and guarantee the ethical and responsible application of AI in healthcare, more research is therefore required.

Challenges of Artificial Intelligence Integration in Rural Setting

Artificial intelligence-powered solutions facilitate remote monitoring and consultations for patients, lessen the strain on healthcare professionals, and enhance healthcare delivery effectiveness.[31] The utilization of AI technologies in remote healthcare has brought to light a number of potential negatives, such as expensive technology costs, a lack of technical know-how, and worries about patient confidentiality and privacy. The cost and availability of capital are major obstacles for rural areas when it comes to purchasing and maintaining the technology needed for AI-powered healthcare. Furthermore, using AI tools demands a high level of technical competence, which may not exist in rural healthcare settings. AI-powered medical devices frequently necessitate gathering and storing vast volumes of patient data, which are open to theft or exploitation. Legal options for patients in remote locations are limited

in the event of a security or privacy violation. To ensure ethical and successful use, there are numerous potential advantages to applying AI tools in rural healthcare, but there are also many critical problems that need to be addressed.

Methods

Registration and Protocol

The PROSPERO International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews has this review article registered under its registration number CRD42023414450. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) principles were followed in the development of the procedure, guaranteeing a transparent and uniform review process.

Search Strategy

Part of the research included a literature review on AI applications in remote healthcare. Utilizing the PubMed, Google Scholar, and Scopus (ScienceDirect) electronic databases, the relevant data and literature were systematically searched as part of the qualitative review. Appropriate keywords and search terms were used, such as "Artificial intelligence in rural healthcare," "AI tools in healthcare," "Machine learning," "Deep learning," "Remote patient monitoring," "Telehealth," "Rural health," "Telemedicine," "Healthcare outcomes," "Rural communities," and "Healthcare disparities." The terms "E-health," "Digital health," "Mobile health," "mHealth," "Smart health," and "Health technology" were added to the review in order to improve it. The research was further adjusted in accordance with its unique specifications and search syntax.

A data constraint spanning from January 1, 2020 to December 12, 2022, has been applied, and only content published in the English language was included. The next step was choosing an abstract and adding papers that fell into the review and systematic review study categories. The "citation manager" and "selected all" options were chosen after selecting the displayed data and hitting the "send to" alternate. This led to the development of a file called PubMed-Artificial-set.nbib. Similarly, the author selected the review article type, narrowed down the data retrieval by 2020–2022, and used the ScienceDirect database from the Scopus family. After being selected, every article on display was exported to Research Information Systems (RIS) format. The author additionally performed a manual search using Google Scholar in order to discover reliable and more pertinent information. The author claims that these manual search techniques—in particular, selecting the most pertinent material while hand-searching—produced contradictory results from the study.[32]

Inclusion Criteria

The inclusion and exclusion criteria specify who could be involved in and who cannot be excluded from the sample of research. The current research looked at how AI technologies are used in healthcare delivery and evaluated how they affect healthcare outcomes in rural locations. This made it simpler to identify the population in a reliable, uniform, consistent, and objective way.[33] Research examined how using AI technologies in rural areas compared to other interventions or standards of care. These comprised study participants who were from rural areas or who worked in healthcare. Research works that have been published in English.

Exclusion Criteria

Research that did not focus on the use of AI in rural healthcare delivery. Research that exclusively examined populations in cities or regions. Studies that omitted information on the AI tool's effects on healthcare outcomes or healthcare results. Research that did not look at how AI tools affected patient outcomes; instead, they focused solely on their technological features. Research that has been published in languages other than English. To guarantee that the study is thorough and trustworthy, the criteria should also be precisely stated and implemented consistently throughout.

Study Selection

After conducting a data search, data screening is an essential step. Nevertheless, two reviewers used an AI-powered program named "Rayyan" to filter the retrieved articles, which made the authors' job easier and faster. Rayyan software, that has combined semi-automation with outstanding usability, expedited the first screening process for abstracts and titles.[34] About 1,008 records from the searches were moved to Rayyan. Prior to the data being uploaded, the research title was created. After uploading, data auto duplication was utilized to find two precise matches, which were resolved in the process. The four inclusion decision categories in the screening method were "Undecided," "Maybe," "Included," and "Excluded." Three stages made up the entire screening process for the study. The preliminary phase's title and abstract caught the author's attention. "Rural/Healthcare," "Artificial Intelligence," "Machine learning," and "Application of AI" were all comprised of the inclusion decision, which had the automatically generated justification "Background article" and assigned the label "AI." The study's title featured these terms as well. The author assigned the code "P" to the confusing data, placing it in the "Maybe" category, based on the assumption that there was a probability of discovering pertinent information. Furthermore, anything that was judged unsuitable and unrelated to the topic was immediately dismissed and marked as "Irrelevant." During the second stage, two titles had to be made: "Maybe full-text review" for the data that was classified as "Maybe," and "Included full-text review" for the data that was classified as "Included." For the third and last stage of the screening procedure, the data that were most relevant to the subject were categorized for the full-text research.

Data Extraction

The research has been chosen because it looked at how AI tools are used in healthcare delivery and assessed how these tools affect health outcomes in remote locations. This required extracting data from the chosen studies that were released between 2020 and 2022 and dealt with AI and the healthcare industry. A crucial component that qualified the study for further investigation was its conclusion. This data was entered into a WinRAR ZIP archive data extraction form.

Quality Assessment

To determine the evidence's overall quality and the potential for bias, the degree of evidence from the selected studies was assessed. Because this was done utilizing a qualitative study approach, the pertinent tool used was the Joanna Briggs Institute Critical Appraisal Checklist.[35]

Data Charting Process

The research was conceived on April 5, 2023, and between April 15 and May 15, 2023, data was attained from electronic databases, like PubMed, Google Scholar, and Science Direct. The "Rayyan" program contained 1,009 data points that were saved for screening on May 18, 2023. On June 3, 2023, after all the data had been screened, 28 works of literature were classified as "Maybe" and stored in Rayyan. Three more data points were uploaded on June 4, 2023, and on July 7, 2023, 24 "final full-text" pieces were marked and archived in Rayyan. After these 24 items were screened, 14 were found to be pertinent to the goals of the study, and a conclusion was made using these 14 datasets. As projected by PROSPERO, the research was finished on June 26, 2024, having undergone multiple

revisions since it was first drafted and written in August 2023.

Data Synthesis

The research used a qualitative method to combine the data. Iteratively going over the data in depth, the author looked for trends, patterns, and recurring themes. The data was divided into meaningful units through the application of a systematic coding process, which produced the initial codes. These codes were grouped to create key themes by organizing them into pertinent categories. The researcher carefully analyzed how codes and themes interacted, honing and modifying them as needed to guarantee consistency and logical coherence. Through an inductive method of data-driven analysis, themes were iteratively formed by continuously comparing and contrasting various data segments to find similarities and differences. The final themes were produced through this iterative approach and represented in a descriptive and cohesive way.

Results

Synthesis of Results

A qualitative method was used in the study to combine the data. In order to identify patterns, trends, and recurrent topics, the author iteratively went over the data in great detail. First, codes were generated by dividing the data into understandable units using a systematic coding approach. These codes were then clustered into key topics, which were arranged into pertinent categories. In order to guarantee logical coherence and consistency, the researcher carefully analyzed the interactions between codes and themes, modifying and enhancing them as needed. Iteratively, themes were produced by an inductive method of data-driven analysis, which involved comparing and contrasting various data segments throughout time to find similarities and differences. The end results of this iterative procedure were final themes, which have been represented in a cohesive and detailed way.

According to the above model shown in Figure 1 (PRISMA 2020 graphic), the data that had been identified from the electronic database (n = 1009) had n = 4 records deleted before screening for duplication and n = 1 record reported as ineligible by automated techniques, resulting in a total of n = 1,008 records screened. The Rayyan Intelligent Systematic Review software evaluated the full text of n = 24 records to determine their eligibility but eliminated them for the following reasons:

- Reason 1: Three records had the wrong study outcomes.
- Reason 2: Two records had the wrong study design.
- Reason 3: One record was the wrong publication.

Moreover, sorting the study's objectives, as depicted in Figure 2, reveals a noteworthy emphasis (20.34%) on using AI technology to enhance healthcare delivery in rural areas. Almost half (44.07%) of the study's findings, or the main focus, relate to closing the healthcare gap in rural areas. Furthermore, nearly 25% of the study's results—or 25.42% of the total—are devoted to examining the difficulties involved in incorporating AI tools into rural healthcare settings.

Table 1 displays "Integration of AI in Healthcare" as an example. Column 1 (henceforth abbreviated as C1) presents a variety of AI tool types. A 25% value in column 2 (C2) represents the viability of AI in lower-resource environments. The usefulness of AI in rural India is seen in column 3 (C3), where a 35% rate is shown. The issues that have been found to be major obstacles in the implementation of AI in rural India are

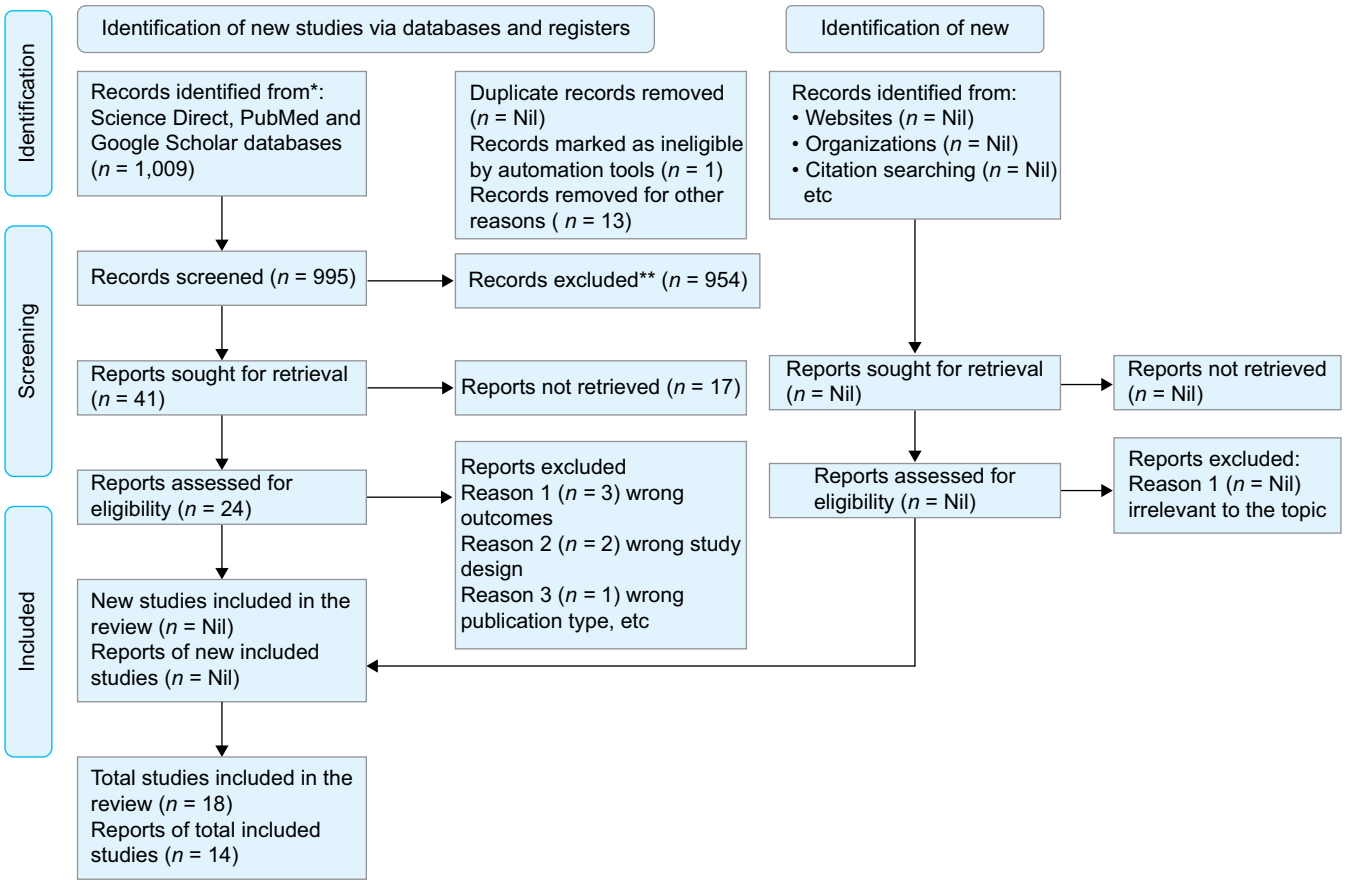

Fig. 1: PRISMA flow diagram

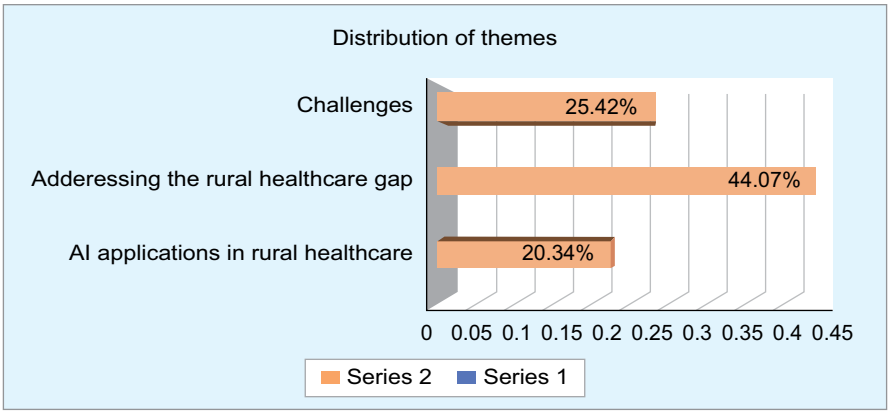

Fig. 2: Percentage distribution: AI's role in rural healthcare—solutions and challenges

covered in column 4 (C4). Table 1 presents statistics on different categories of AI tools that are intended to improve healthcare in rural areas (C1). However, it is demonstrated that only 25% of them could be implemented in these areas (C2). In spite of this, 35% of them appear to be helpful in closing the healthcare gap in rural areas (C3). AI tool adoption faces more obstacles in rural areas, with a 40% increase (C4).

Artificial Intelligence Applications in Rural Healthcare

The results of the study placed a strong emphasis on using AI tools to enhance rural healthcare facilities, accounting for 20.34% of the total. The study showed how the application of AI technologies has improved precision medicine, increased efficiency and cost-effectiveness, provided decision assistance, forecasted and tracked epidemics, and provided remote healthcare services, among other benefits. Many subthemes have emerged within this main theme:

Cutting-edge Diagnosis and Action

The numerical values are an amalgam of multiple codes that contribute to this overall concept. But the advanced diagnosis and treatment entailed using AI and deep-learning technologies for various diagnostic tasks, such as image analysis, treatment planning help, and possibly even surgical assistance.[36]

Better-quality Patient Care

The theme focused on how AI is influencing remote patient monitoring, helping with early problem diagnosis, individualized medicine approaches, and possibly even supporting mental-health services.[37]

Operational Efficiency

The use of AI to streamline workflows, automate administrative chores, and improve the general effectiveness of healthcare systems is known as operational efficiency.[38]

Drug Discovery and Development

Artificial intelligence to speed up the process of finding and creating new medications.[39,40]

Broader Applications

This involved a wide spectrum of possible AI uses in healthcare, including telemedicine, epidemic forecasting, decision-support systems, integrating AI into larger healthcare systems, and assisting complementary medicine. These outcomes give important insights into the revolutionary influence of AI on the delivery of healthcare for stakeholders, healthcare providers, policymakers, and technology developers who are active in improving patient outcomes and promoting healthcare equity in rural areas.

Addressing the Rural Healthcare Gap

About 44.07% of the study was devoted to investigating AI-powered solutions with the express purpose of closing the healthcare gap in rural areas. The following sections, which are examined in more detail, demonstrate how AI tools helped close these gaps in rural healthcare:

Artificial Intelligence-powered Solution

In these disadvantaged areas, the adoption of AI-powered technologies has transformed healthcare delivery and made a substantial contribution to closing the healthcare gap. The previous example emphasized the ways in which the technologies of AI have revolutionized rural healthcare and enhanced health results. These include telemedicine, workflow automation, remote patient monitoring, increased access to care, administrative tasks, early disease detection, and increased access to specialties.[41]

Improved Rural Healthcare Delivery

This theme focused on how AI aided in diagnosis, treatment, and operational-efficiency optimization, directly improving healthcare service in rural areas.[42]

Discussion

This project's purpose has been to investigate the effects of AI applications in India's rural healthcare system. However, in a different geographic context, the study showed how AI applications improved the process of bridging the healthcare gap in rural areas, yielding favorable results. The research, which was published in BMJ Global Health, stressed that knowing local dynamics, establishing precise usability standards, and having access to enough training through field trials are critical to the success of AI solutions in low-resource environments.[43] Furthermore, the study published in Frontiers demonstrated that, rather than beginning from scratch or attempting to replace current systems, it is preferable to use iterative, field-based procedures which have been already integrated into institutions and systems. However, malfunctioning institutions that are unable to repair themselves have been possible to be capable of supporting and effectively utilizing complex technology.[6] The adoption of AI does, however, make it easier to find and assess a variety of AI solutions designed specifically for India's rural healthcare settings. Similarly, the current study focused on certain applications of AI, such as remote patient monitoring, improved diagnostics, and operational effectiveness tools, that could promote accessibility and higher-quality healthcare delivery in rural locations. Once again, research named "The application of AI technology in rural areas of emerging countries," which was published in Health Equity, examined how the use of AI offered direction and suggestions for paramedical and nursing staff. Additionally, the study demonstrated that there was a 94% overall rate of consistency between physicians and the early detection and prevention system (EDPS). The study also showed that after AI technology was implemented, patient responses were favorable. Village health nurses were therefore drawn to use wearable technology, computers, iPads, and other electronic gadgets, which allowed medical professionals to enhance the standard of treatment provided in remote regions.[44]

The goals of finding and assessing AI solutions for rural healthcare are aligned with the uses of AI in rural India, offering insightful information on how technology might alleviate healthcare inequities. One such

Table 1: Integration of AI in healthcare: opportunities, solutions, and challenges in low-resource and rural settings

1. Types of AI	*2. Opportunity—AI for low-resource setting (25%)*	*% of occurrence*	*3. AI-powered solution to rural healthcare gap (35%)*	*% of occurrence*	*4. Challenges (40%)*	*% of occurrence*
Deep learning technique in healthcare	Diagnostic and triage	10	Diagnostic assistance	15	Data availability and quality	10
Focus on big data analysis	Decision support	5	Decision support system	10	Infrastructure limitations	5
Diagnostic and treatment	Epidemic prediction and monitoring	5	Telemedicine and remote monitoring	10	Ethical considerations	5
Personalized medicine	Deliver remote healthcare	5	Focused on diagnostic tools	5	Ethical considerations	5
Remote patient monitoring	Support diagnosis and triage	5	AI and complementary medicine	5	Privacy concern	5
Administrative tasks	Facility data analysis	5	Integrated and broader application	5	Public trust and acceptance	5
	Increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness	5	Improve data management	5	Data privacy and security	5
	Enhanced diagnostic and treatment (5%)	5	Digital transformation and AI adoption	5	Algorithmic bias	5
	Medical diagnosis	5	AI-assisted diagnostics	5	Limited internet connectivity	5
	Improve access to care	5	The broader concept of AI in healthcare	5	Transparency and explainability	5
	Precision medicine	5	Telemedicine and remote patient monitoring	5	Data privacy and data security	5
	Drug discovery and development	5	AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants	5	Lack of robust healthcare data	5
			Drug discovery and development	5	Algorithmic bias	5
			Patient monitoring and risk prediction	5	Cost and implementation	5
			Administrative tasks and workflow automation	5		
			Personalized medicine	5		
			Increase access to care focusing	5		
			Improve efficiency	5		
			Diagnostic and treatment	5		
			Increase access to specialties	5		
			Nursing and managerial activities	5		
			Early disease detection	5		
			Personalized medicine	5		

example is a healthcare facility in Bangalore, India, that uses cloud computing to provide medical services and has expanded to remote places in northern Indian states. This program provided extensive training to nurses and paramedical personnel stationed in rural areas on how to efficiently oversee different types of medical support. In the interim, proficient and certified medical professionals oversee the procedures virtually from Bangalore. The chapter "Remote Patient Monitoring using IoT, AI, and Cloud Computing" in the book "Hybrid Artificial Intelligence and IoT in Healthcare" describes how AI has enhanced the standard and accessibility of healthcare in rural areas by utilizing "cloud computing, IoT, and other AI tools for remote patient monitoring."[45] The study's conclusions thus addressed the query, "What potential applications of AI exist for improving healthcare delivery in rural

areas? These uses align with the research objectives."

The report also mentioned potential obstacles and restrictions regarding the AI technologies used in remote healthcare settings in India. The following unique obstacles arise when using AI in rural healthcare:

Data Issues

This issue recognized the difficulties associated with scarce data availability,[46] robustness, and quality, particularly in rural areas, that could impede the development and application of AI in healthcare.

Ethical Considerations

When using AI in healthcare, the study stressed how crucial it is to address ethical issues like algorithmic bias, privacy concerns, openness, and public trust.[47]

Infrastructure Limitations

The implementation of AI-based healthcare solutions may be limited by rural areas' poor internet connectivity, as this study illustrated.[48–50]

Cost and Implementation

This theme recognized the necessity of taking into account the viability and cost-effectiveness of utilizing AI solutions in healthcare settings, especially in settings with limited resources.[51]

Limitations

The accessibility and quality of healthcare data from rural regions, which could be unpredictable, lacking, or erroneous, may be a limitation of the study. Although the study's methodology may not have complied with widely recognized standards, it did meet the PRISMA 2020 checklist's guidelines.

Conclusion

The study demonstrated how AI applications have a great deal of promise to enhance healthcare delivery and address disparities in rural areas. The research highlighted the revolutionary influence AI brought on healthcare outcomes through an examination of several AI solutions designed for rural healthcare settings, such as remote patient monitoring and enhanced diagnostics. Although the implementation has positive implications, there are several problems that must be addressed to ensure success, including limited data accessibility, ethical constraints, and infrastructural limits. Furthermore, the rural Indian researcher stressed that socioeconomic limitations, geographic dispersion, and illiteracy among large populations are all causes of operational issues.

The report did, however, also make the following recommendations, which might greatly enhance the way healthcare is provided in rural areas: increase accessibility of data; establish ethical standards; build infrastructure; provide training and education; conduct pilot projects; and encourage cooperation.

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Orcid

Ajit Kerketta https://orcid.org/0009-0001-5057-9511
Sathiyaseelan Balasundaram https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9593-871X

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