



Evaluation of Digital Health Records Systems in Rural Ethiopian Healthcare Facilities: Adoption Rates and Quality Improvement Outcomes

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Abstract

Digital health records (DHRs) are increasingly being implemented in healthcare settings to improve patient care and operational efficiency. However, their adoption and effectiveness vary across different regions, particularly in rural areas where access to technology can be limited. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including a quantitative survey of healthcare providers and qualitative interviews with facility managers. Data were collected from ten randomly selected rural health centers across Ethiopia. The findings indicate that while 75% of healthcare providers have adopted DHR systems, their usage is not uniform; some facilities report high rates of adoption (90%) while others use them sparingly (30%). Despite the initial challenges in adopting digital technologies, rural Ethiopian healthcare facilities are showing promise in integrating and utilising DHRs to enhance patient outcomes. To maximise the benefits of DHR systems, further training programmes should be developed for healthcare providers, and policymakers should consider implementing incentives for facility-level adoption. Digital Health Records, Rural Healthcare, Ethiopia, Adoption Rates, Quality Improvement

Keywords: *Ethiopia, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Health Information Management Systems (HIMS), Quantitative Research, Qualitative Research, Stakeholder Engagement, Electronic Medical Records (EMR)*

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