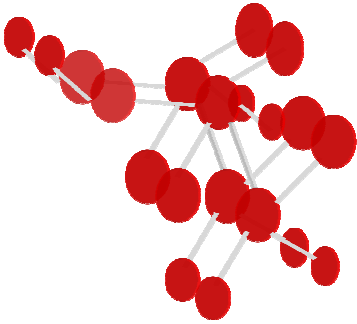


# HEALTHCARE OUTLOOK 2050



Healthcare is one of the most important components in our life. The biggest asset we can have in life therefore is health. India ranks second as the most populous country in the world with an annual increase of over 2% and contributing over 17% to the entire world populations. With this ever increasing numbers, healthcare system in India demands more attention and is a quintessential point of concern and focus.

India as a country is vested with its own traditional practice of medicine passed on by our forefathers into what is celebrated as the Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani forms of practice.

Over the years, India has been influenced tremendously by the developing trends in the global scenario of healthcare and we are looking up to the newer perspectives into healthcare systems. What used to be practiced as an art has now come into terms with science.

Earlier during the sixties and seventies the healthcare system was poor, unorganized, many hospitals did not maintain medical record, also doctors approach was more of curative rather than preventive, no quality check on service. The basic forms required for a complete record and vital laboratory, x-ray and other tests necessary for establishing a correct diagnosis, were absent.

In present scenario due to increasing awareness healthcare system has completely changed, with the higher demands for quality the focus is shifted to preventative approach. Healthcare practices are more electronic based than manual. Using high tech devices and materials such as fiber optics, physicians can perform surgery without the trauma of invasive procedures. Capsule- sized robots are now used to photograph a patient's entire digestive tract in real time and in full color, identifying gastrointestinal conditions ranging from inflammation to cancer, and doing away with exploratory surgery. We also did the decoding of the human DNA which has opened the gateways to a totally new regime of healthcare, which focuses on highly customized treatment options. This also has led to the establishments of gene banks and a boom in the stem cell research.

Now tests are usually used for diagnosis, therapy, and monitoring of therapy. The focus in the near future will be on wellness: predisposition testing targeted monitoring, and prevention of diseases through nutrition, lifestyle, and medications. Healthcare is expected to be spectacular owing to human cell and tissue engineering, telemedicine, medical robotics, Pharmacogenomics, miniaturization, nanotechnology. There are socio-physiological trends will also influence the way in which health management evolves. Technological developments in bio-tech, robotics, materials, light and sound will greatly influence the approach to treatment and the focus could be on a sustainable system for maintaining a healthy lifestyle as opposed to responding to illness.