

DAKSHIN Workshop

Telehealth- Transformative Digital Health Solution

Outcome Report



RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसन्धान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



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CONCEPT NOTE

Telehealth, the provision of healthcare services remotely through telecommunications technology, has revolutionized the medical field by increasing access to care, especially in underserved and rural areas. By enabling virtual consultations, remote monitoring, and digital health records, telehealth has addressed various challenges related to healthcare delivery, such as geographic barriers and provider shortages. This innovative approach not only enhances patient convenience and reduces travel time but also ensures continuity of care during emergencies and pandemics. As telehealth continues to evolve, its potential to transform global healthcare systems, particularly in regions with limited resources, becomes increasingly evident.

DAKSHIN is an initiative dedicated to best practices in various fields, including healthcare, technology, and agriculture across all countries of the Global South. Its mandate is to create a collaborative platform where innovative solutions and successful programs can be showcased, allowing countries to learn from each other's experiences and implement effective strategies tailored to their unique contexts. By fostering cross-border knowledge exchange and cooperation, DAKSHIN aims to drive sustainable development and improve the quality of life across the Global South.

The workshop on Telehealth aims to explore opportunities for the customisation, replication and adaptation of successful telehealth initiatives across the Global South. This workshop will bring together esteemed think tanks, experts, and representatives from various countries to share the learning from telehealth, discuss the challenges faced during its implementation, and chart a course for its wider adoption.

Recognizing the transformative impact of telehealth, several organizations across the Global South have shown a strong interest in collaborating on telehealth innovations. Their participation highlights their desire to explore similar initiatives in their respective countries and regions. This workshop will provide a platform to understand and address national and regional health challenges, which are often exacerbated by factors such as limited access to healthcare, geographic barriers, and resource constraints. The goal is to demonstrate how telehealth can serve as a viable solution to enhance affordable healthcare access and delivery.

The key focus areas of the workshop include:

- *Showcasing Success Stories:*

Keynote speakers will share the success story of eSanjeevani and other telehealth solutions, highlighting their impact on healthcare access and delivery. These insights will serve as inspiration for participants seeking to replicate similar telehealth models in their respective countries.

- *Addressing Implementation Challenges:*

Representatives from participating countries will discuss the challenges they face in implementing telehealth programs. Through interactive sessions and peer-to-peer learning, participants will brainstorm strategies to overcome barriers and optimize telehealth implementation.

- *Exploring Adaptation Opportunities:*

The workshop will provide a forum for exploring the adaptation and customization of the telehealth models to suit diverse healthcare contexts. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices, and identify opportunities for collaboration and technical assistance.

Hence, the workshop aims to answer key questions like:

- How does telehealth improve access to healthcare for patients in remote and rural areas?
- What technological features does telehealth employ to ensure efficient and confidential healthcare delivery?
- In what ways does telehealth enhance the overall quality and efficiency of healthcare services?
- How can advanced technologies like AI and wearable devices enhance the effectiveness of telehealth?
- What policy and infrastructure developments are necessary for the sustainable growth of telehealth?

The anticipated impact of the workshop includes increased awareness and understanding of the telehealth models, enhanced collaboration among stakeholders, empowerment of participating countries to implement effective telehealth programs, and long-term improvements in healthcare access, quality, and outcomes in the Global South through telehealth innovation.



AGENDA

5:30 PM – 5:35 PM: Welcome Remarks

5:35 PM – 5:45 PM: eSanjeevani: Enhancing Access to Medical Care Through Technology

- **Dr Sanjay Sood**, Project Director - eSanjeevani, CDAC Mohali, India

5:45 PM – 5:50 PM: The Success of Telehealth in Ophthalmology in India

- **Dr R. Kim, Director** - IT Systems, Aravind Eye Care Hospitals, India

5:50 PM – 5:55 PM: Charting the Future: The Way Forward with Telehealth

- **Dr Guriqbal Singh Jaiya**, Managing Partner - SKS Law Associates, India; Former Director, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

5:55 PM – 6:40 PM: Perspective on Telehealth from Global South countries

- **Mr Mamadou Hafiziou Barry**, Director General, Initiative for Economic Foresight and Sustainable Development – IPED, Republic of Guinea
- **Mrs Ximena Coronado**, President of the Board of Directors, Instituto de Estudios Avanzados en Desarrollo - INESAD, Bolivia
- **Dr Titipol Phakdeewanich**, Faculty of Political Science, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand
- **Dr Rose Ngugi**, Executive Director, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research & Analysis (KIPPRA), Kenya
- **Mr Mbaka Paul**, Assistant Commissioner, Digital Health, Ministry of Health, Uganda

6:40 PM – 6:55 PM: Open Discussion

6:55 PM – 7:00 PM: Concluding Remarks



SUMMARY

On August 8th, 2024 DAKSHIN - Global South Centre of Excellence conducted a virtual workshop titled “Telehealth - Transformative Digital Health Solution.” The event focused on the impact of telehealth, a technology-driven approach that enables the remote provision of healthcare services. Telehealth has significantly increased access to medical care, particularly in underserved and rural areas, by overcoming geographic barriers and addressing shortages of healthcare providers. The workshop aimed to explore how telehealth can be customized, replicated, and adapted across the Global South to enhance healthcare access and delivery.

Dr Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General, RIS

Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, welcomed participants, including representatives from various global think tanks. In the introduction, Dr Chaturvedi highlighted the critical role of technology, particularly Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), in addressing the complex challenges faced by the Global South. He emphasized India’s commitment to these technologies to combat multidimensional poverty and improve social sectors such as health. The focus was on how digitalization, through tools like APIs, has emerged as a significant solution to these challenges, enabling countries to navigate and overcome obstacles related to physical connectivity and healthcare delivery.

He provided an overview of the DAKSHIN - Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS, an initiative born out of India’s hosting of the G20 summit and the Voice of Global South Summit. He congratulated for envisaging this opportunity of leveraging telemedicine as one of the areas meeting the challenges in the health sector. Reflecting on the history of telemedicine, Dr Chaturvedi recalled the vision of the former President of India Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam of Pan-African e-Network, which was an initiative to deliver healthcare through a digital network based on optical fiber cables in Africa. He acknowledged that while the technology and infrastructure have evolved significantly, since then, the core idea of using telemedicine to modernise healthcare delivery remains crucial. He also praised the ongoing efforts by countries and healthcare professionals who are pioneering telemedicine practices, ensuring continuity of care, and improving patient outcomes in cost-effective ways. In the concluding remarks, Dr Chaturvedi expressed optimism that the workshop would help create a roadmap for expanding telehealth initiatives across the Global South. He mentioned that countries like Brazil and Kenya have already made significant strides in this area, providing valuable insights and roadmaps for successful implementation. He warmly welcomed all participants and expressed hope that

the workshop would lead to concrete actions and partnerships that would further strengthen the goal of improving healthcare access and outcomes through telemedicine.

Mr. Atul Kaushik

GDC Fellow, RIS

Following the welcome remarks, Mr. Atul Kaushik, took the workshop to the next stage, introducing and welcoming the esteemed panelist, Dr. Sanjay Sood, Project Director of eSanjeevani at CDAC Mohali, India. Mr. Kaushik highlighted Dr. Sood's remarkable contributions to global telemedicine, noting that for the past 25 years, he has been at the forefront of driving digital innovations to strengthen health systems around the world. eSanjeevani has successfully provided healthcare services to around 300 million patients across the nation and demonstrated the transformative potential of digital health solutions in enhancing access to care and improving health outcomes on a massive scale.

Dr. Sanjay Sood

Project Director - eSanjeevani, CDAC Mohali, India

Dr Sanjay Sood, began his presentation by acknowledging Professor Sachin Chaturvedi and the team for organizing the event and greeted fellow panelists and attendees. He emphasized the significance of eSanjeevani as a pivotal component of Digital India, underlining the continuous efforts to enhance the platform with innovative features that benefit healthcare providers and patients. He underlined that the initiative has significantly enhanced accessibility and equity in healthcare across the nation and served over 275 million patients to date. eSanjeevani operates two key variants: the eSanjeevani OPD, designed for urban, IT-savvy users to connect with healthcare providers via a mobile or web application, and the provider-to-provider variant, which operates through Health and Wellness Centers across rural India. The latter was conceptualized to expand access to specialized care for rural and isolated communities, act as a gatekeeper to prevent overcrowding at secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities, and ensure continuity of care through electronic health systems.

He underlined that with the capability to handle over a million patients daily, eSanjeevani has registered over 200,000 healthcare providers and operates across more than 127,000 Health and Wellness Centers. The system functions on a hub-and-spoke model, with 16,000 hubs established by state administrations and 477 OPDs delivering a range of healthcare services.

Dr. Sood highlighted the technological innovations integrated into eSanjeevani, such as point-of-care devices that assist clinicians in making accurate diagnoses and the incorporation of AI for real-time health record sharing. The platform, which is cloud-based and supports multiple languages, complies with all relevant guidelines and standards, including the Electronic Health Record guidelines and Telemedicine Practice guidelines set by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. During the COVID-19 pandemic, eSanjeevani played a critical role, providing healthcare services to over 30 million patients and supporting various health initiatives, including services for people with HIV/AIDS and critical illnesses.

Dr. Sood also shared insights from an impact study conducted in Jharkhand, which revealed that eSanjeevani saved patients significant travel distances and costs, particularly in rural areas. The platform not only just increasing healthcare accessibility but to the economic growth of the country. Dr. Sood mentioned ongoing innovations, such as speech-to-speech translation technology and generative AI for analyzing consultation dialogues, aimed at further enhancing the platform's capabilities.

In terms of international collaboration, eSanjeevani is driving progress towards multiple Sustainable Development Goals, including gender equality and reducing inequalities, while ensuring good health and well-being. The platform has been recognized as a successful digital public good on the India Stack Global, with the Government of India making its technology and know-how available to other nations interested in adopting it. Dr. Sood concluded by reaffirming eSanjeevani's role as a practical, affordable, and feasible telemedicine technology, rapidly scaling up to meet the healthcare needs of India and potentially other countries.

Dr. R. Kim

Director - IT Systems, Aravind Eye Care Hospitals, India

Dr. Kim Ramasamy, expressed his enthusiasm for participating in the Telehealth workshop organized by RIS. He highlighted the significance of such events in advancing telehealth and shared insights on the implementation of tele-ophthalmology, emphasizing its role in expanding access to eye care. In the presentation, Dr. Kim illustrated how tele-ophthalmology helps bridge this gap by reaching people early, particularly through regular outreach screenings and telemedicine services. He shared examples of weekly eye camps organized by Aravind Eye Care where comprehensive eye examinations were performed and patients needing surgery were referred to hospitals. He detailed the evolution of Aravind's tele-ophthalmology efforts, starting from early initiatives in the late 1990s to the current deployment of vision centers. These centers, equipped with trained technicians, usually trained local women, and are linked to base hospitals via telemedicine. It enables comprehensive eye exams and consultations without the need for patients to travel extensively and has proven effective in increasing accessibility and reducing the burden on tertiary hospitals. He also highlighted that 87% of the patients who receive care at the vision centres do not have to travel to the base hospital. Only 13% need to travel to the hospital for any further intervention including surgery.

Dr. Kim highlighted the success of these vision centers, noting that they serve approximately 3,000 patients daily and have facilitated nearly 1 million patient visits in the past year. The centers not only provide essential eye care but also act as a critical last-mile connectivity solution, particularly for remote and underserved populations. He also mentioned the expansion of this model to Bangladesh and other regions, showcasing its potential as an effective strategy for scaling up eye care services.

Dr. Guriqbal Singh Jaiya

Managing Partner - SKS Law Associates, India; Former Director, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Afterwards, Dr. Guriqbal Singh Jaiya, began his insights by highlighting the progress made since the implementation of telemedicine practice guidelines in India. He noted that while these guidelines are a significant advancement, further work is needed to integrate standards of care and informed consent into the telemedicine system. He also emphasized the challenges in ensuring that patients are fully aware of the limitations inherent in telemedicine modalities. He reflected on the pivotal role of telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic, where even simple phone calls proved invaluable. The use of the e-Sanjeevani platform and the hub-and-spoke model significantly contributed to healthcare delivery. Despite the success of these models, he pointed out that there are still challenges related to digital equity, as access to telemedicine remains limited for those without smart phones or reliable internet connectivity. He stressed the need to address these gaps to improve healthcare access for all.

Furthermore, Dr. Jaiya also addressed the broader context of public health and the role of telemedicine in addressing chronic illnesses and lifestyle issues. He advocated for a more integrated approach involving state-level initiatives, private sector contributions, and civil society engagement. He emphasized that while telemedicine has shown promise, it must be part of a larger strategy that includes prevention and public health infrastructure. Lastly, Dr. Jaiya discussed the importance of privacy and security in telemedicine, noting the need for robust protection of sensitive health data amidst increasing cyber threats. He pointed to the need for clear regulations under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act and highlighted the necessity of balancing data sharing for innovation with privacy concerns. He concluded by expressing his willingness to share specific examples from telemedicine startups in India that have made notable contributions to the field.

Dr. Rose Ngugi

Executive Director, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research & Analysis (KIPPRA), Kenya

The next phase of the workshop included voices from members of the Global South as Special Remarks. Dr. Rose Ngugi, is a renowned expert in policy and strategy, advising the Kenyan government and stakeholders on national development. Her notable experience includes roles as a senior advisor at the IMF's Africa Group One and a member of the Central Bank of Kenya's Monetary Policy Committee. Dr. Ngugi is honored with the Head of State Commendation, Grand Warrior, by the President of Kenya in December 2023. Dr. Rose provided insights into the impact of telemedicine from an economic and policy perspective, emphasizing its potential to transform healthcare delivery, particularly in remote and underserved areas. She acknowledged the growth of telemedicine startups in Kenya, which focus on consultations, finding doctors, and accessing pharmaceutical products. She emphasized that while telemedicine is gaining traction, challenges such as poor internet connectivity, unreliable electricity, and language barriers persist. These obstacles hinder the effective use of telemedicine, particularly for marginalized communities, including the deaf population who struggle with communication during consultations. She also mentioned Kenya's progress in developing supportive policies and infrastructure, such as the Digital Health Act and the establishment of a Digital Health Agency and how these initiatives

aim to improve telehealth services and ensure consumer protection. Dr. Rose discussed the need for comprehensive consumer protection laws to guarantee the quality and reliability of telehealth services, and the importance of integrating complementary services, like mobile clinics, to address local health needs effectively.

Furthermore, Dr. Rose discussed the financial aspects of telemedicine, including the integration of payment systems and the need for cost-effective solutions. She suggested exploring alternative communication methods, such as USSD, for regions with limited connectivity. Her insights underscored the importance of addressing infrastructure challenges and ensuring that telemedicine benefits reach all segments of the population, regardless of their geographical or economic situation.

Mrs Ximena Coronado

President of the Board of Directors, Instituto de Estudios Avanzados en Desarrollo - INESAD, Bolivia

The next special remarks were from Mrs Ximena Coronado, who expressed her gratitude for participating in the workshop and highlighted the importance of international collaboration and research in addressing healthcare challenges and advancing equitable health systems. Mrs Coronado began by situating Bolivia in a global context, despite the relatively small population of 12 million, Bolivia has made significant progress in healthcare, reducing preventable child deaths to less than 20% by 2022. This puts Bolivia in a middle range among global countries in terms of healthcare achievements. She noted that Bolivia's health expenditure distribution is similar to that of neighboring countries, with substantial public spending amounting to over 6% of GDP in 2022, and private investment contributing over 2% of GDP. However, Bolivia faced challenges with high out-of-pocket expenses and low per capita health spending, which fell below the regional average. Regarding telehealth, she highlighted that Bolivia has only recently developed telehealth as a public policy, officially adopting it in 2018. The policy aims to increase accessibility to specialized medical services using information technology, social media, and telemedicine. Despite efforts to provide high-quality care, the initiative has faced limitations due to inadequate resources and a lack of clear guidelines. In 2020, telehealth services reached a million Bolivians, though they still represent a small fraction of outpatient visits. The government has made efforts to equip at least one health facility with telemedicine resources in each of Bolivia's 340 municipalities. Additionally, Bolivia implemented a universal health insurance program in 2019, known as the Universal Health System, which aims to cover the entire population.

She also pointed out significant challenges Bolivia faced in telehealth, including the absence of standardized and integrated IT health information systems and a specific regulatory framework. This lack of regulation leads to unclear quality standards and concerns about data security and privacy. However, she highlighted the opportunities in Bolivia's evolving health system, suggesting that the current development phase allows for the implementation of new technologies and contributions to regulatory frameworks. There is also a rise in private investment and interest in cross-border telemedicine, along with a growing demand for specialized education in the field. Mrs. Ximena concluded by emphasizing the untapped potential of telehealth in Bolivia and the critical need to enhance health education and digital literacy within the community.

Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich

Faculty of Political Science, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand

The next special remarks were from Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich, a key figure in advancing human rights and health protection in Thailand and beyond. Dr. Titipol highlighted Thailand's healthcare system, which includes the universal healthcare scheme known as the 30 Baht Scheme. This scheme, initiated in 2001 and expanded in 2002, provides access to healthcare services across the country. However, he noted that this system initially restricted patients from receiving services only within their registered areas. Recent upgrades have allowed for broader access to healthcare services nationwide. He pointed out that despite these advancements, the 30 Baht Scheme has faced criticism from medical professionals who argued that it encourages unnecessary hospital visits. Additionally, non-medical costs, such as transportation, pose significant barriers for rural populations. Dr. Phakdeewanich shared an anecdote about villagers needing to wake up early and travel together to afford transportation to a hospital, underscoring the difficulties faced in accessing healthcare. He also underlined that the Thai government has recognized these issues and has started to explore telehealth solutions. Although pilot projects for telehealth have been conducted for years, more comprehensive implementation began earlier this year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth gained traction as a necessary alternative, with social media and mobile platforms becoming common tools for consultations and treatment. Dr. Phakdeewanich also discussed issues specific to stateless people in Thailand, who face additional barriers due to outdated information systems. This group often struggles with accessing healthcare services due to their unique identification status and the inefficiencies in the national information system.

In terms of current telehealth infrastructure, he mentioned that as of 2023, 101,871 hospitals and healthcare organizations in Thailand were involved in telehealth. Despite this, coverage remains limited, with only 64 healthcare centers in his province participating in the telehealth system, which is insufficient given the region's population of nearly 2 million. Dr. Phakdeewanich concluded by emphasizing the need for greater government investment in telehealth infrastructure. He argued that improving internet access and telehealth services could significantly benefit rural populations, allowing them to receive necessary consultations without the need for extensive travel. He stressed that increasing investment in telehealth could address many of the current challenges in accessing healthcare in Thailand.

Mr. Atul Kaushik

GDC Fellow, RIS

The workshop then progressed to the Q&A session and ended with a Vote of Thanks from Mr. Atul Kaushik, thanked the panelists for explaining the audiences regarding the nuances of India's telehealth initiatives and the way in which India can assist the other countries of the Global South. He also thanked the participants from other countries who shared their experiences and raised some pertinent issues that need further policy analysis in respective countries. Mr Kaushik ended with a vote of thanks with anticipation of continuity of workshops on engaging topics in future.



KEY OUTCOMES

1. Recognition of Telehealth as a Key Driver of Health Equity

Participants collectively acknowledged telehealth as a revolutionary tool for bridging healthcare gaps, especially in rural and underserved areas. The discussions reaffirmed that technology-driven healthcare models can overcome geographic and resource constraints, bringing quality care to populations that were previously excluded from formal health systems.

2. Showcasing India's Leadership in Digital Health through eSanjeevani

The workshop highlighted India's eSanjeevani platform as a pioneering example of scalable and sustainable telehealth innovation. With over 300 million consultations, the initiative has proven to be an effective model of leveraging digital public infrastructure to deliver real-time healthcare services. Its hub-and-spoke model, integration with Health and Wellness Centres, and adherence to digital health standards were appreciated as replicable best practices for the Global South.

3. Emphasis on Digital Public Infrastructure and Interoperability

Building on India's experience, the workshop stressed the importance of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for health systems, ensuring interoperability, privacy, and security of patient data. Participants underscored that ethical data management and digital inclusion are essential for scaling telehealth equitably across countries with varying digital capacities.

4. Innovations and Future Directions in Telehealth

Presentations showcased technological advancements such as AI integration, point-of-care diagnostic devices, and speech-to-speech translation tools. These innovations are expected to improve diagnosis, patient communication, and continuity of care, reinforcing telehealth's potential as a dynamic solution for public health challenges.

5. International Perspectives and South-South Learning

Representatives from Kenya, Bolivia, and Thailand shared country-specific experiences, challenges, and opportunities in telehealth implementation.

- **Kenya** emphasized developing regulatory frameworks and improving digital infrastructure for equitable access.
- **Bolivia** discussed its evolving telehealth policy, highlighting progress in universal health coverage and the need for clearer regulations and digital literacy.
- **Thailand** shared lessons from integrating telehealth within its universal healthcare model and underscored the necessity of expanding infrastructure to reach rural and stateless populations.
- These experiences reinforced the value of collaborative learning and adapting digital health strategies to local contexts.

6. Call for Policy Strengthening and Regulatory Frameworks

The workshop emphasized the urgent need for robust policy environments to govern telemedicine practices, data protection, and patient rights. Strengthening standards of care, informed consent, and cybersecurity were identified as priority areas to ensure patient safety and build trust in telehealth systems.

7. Telehealth as an Enabler of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Discussions linked telehealth directly to advancing SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by ensuring affordable and equitable healthcare access. Participants agreed that collaborative action in digital health can accelerate the achievement of these global goals.

8. Commitment to Continued Collaboration under DAKSHIN

The workshop concluded with a strong commitment to advancing South-South cooperation through the DAKSHIN platform. Participants agreed to promote ongoing dialogue, knowledge sharing, and capacity building to co-create digital health solutions tailored to regional needs.

Glimpses of the Conference


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Viewing Titipol Phakdeewanich's appli... - 73% +

Layout

Challenges for the Improvement of Telehealth in Thailand



Dr Titipol Phakdeewanich
Director, Regional Center for Human Rights Study and Cooperation,
Faculty of Political Science, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand

Titipol Phakdeewanich

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Telehealth in Bolivia

Challenges

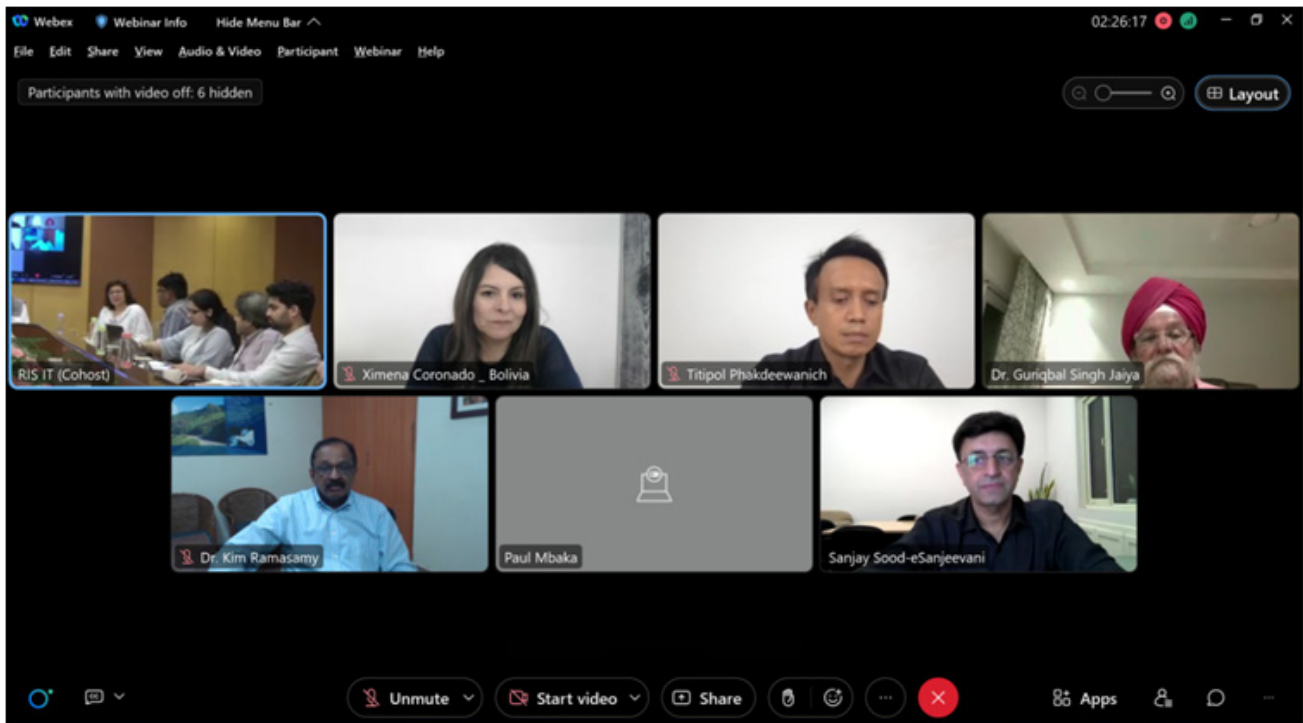
- The first one is the **lack of a standardized and integrated health information system**, as well as a digital health record.
- There is currently **no specific regulatory framework in place**, that let to establish minimum standards for these services.
- There is a lack of clarity regarding the quality and scope of telemedicine services being offered
- Raises concerns about data security and privacy.

Opportunities

- A **unique opportunity to implement new technologies** and contribute to the regulatory framework, which is not possible in other countries.
- Bolivia is seeing an **upswing in private investment** in healthcare. Besides, international institutions (such as the IDB and ECLAC) are exploring the regional **potential of cross-border telemedicine**.
- There is a growing demand for **specialized education in the subject** (given that spending on education exceeds spending on health in Bolivia)
- There is a critical need to **promote health education and digital literacy** among the community.

Ximena Coronado _ Bolivia

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RIS specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. It is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. Through its following centres/forums, RIS promotes policy dialogue and coherence on regional and international economic issues.



The word “DAKSHIN” (दक्षिण) is of Sanskrit origin, meaning “South.” The Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence in November 2023. The initiative was inspired by the deliberations of Global South leaders during the Voice of the Global South Summits. DAKSHIN stands for Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative. Hosted at the RIS, DAKSHIN has established linkages with leading think tanks and universities across the Global South and is building a dynamic network of scholars working on Global South issues.



AIC at RIS has been working to strengthen India’s strategic partnership with ASEAN in its realisation of the ASEAN Community. AIC at RIS undertakes research, policy advocacy and regular networking activities with relevant organisations and think-tanks in India and ASEAN countries, with the aim of providing policy inputs, up-to-date information, data resources and sustained interaction, for strengthening ASEAN-India partnership.



CMEC has been established at RIS under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPS&W), Government of India. CMEC is a collaboration between RIS and Indian Ports Association (IPA). It has been mandated to act as an advisory/technological arm of MoPSW to provide the analytical support on policies and their implementation.



FITM is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Ayush and RIS. It has been established with the objective of undertaking policy research on economy, intellectual property rights (IPRs) trade, sustainability and international cooperation in traditional medicines. FITM provides analytical support to the Ministry of Ayush on policy and strategy responses on emerging national and global developments.



BEF aims to serve as a dedicated platform for fostering dialogue on promoting the concept in the Indian Ocean and other regions. The forum focuses on conducting studies on the potential, prospects and challenges of blue economy; providing regular inputs to practitioners in the government and the private sectors; and promoting advocacy for its smooth adoption in national economic policies.



FIDC, has been engaged in exploring nuances of India’s development cooperation programme, keeping in view the wider perspective of South-South Cooperation in the backdrop of international development cooperation scenario. It is a tripartite initiative of the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, academia and civil society organisations.



FISD aims to harness the full potential and synergy between science and technology, diplomacy, foreign policy and development cooperation in order to meet India’s development and security needs. It is also engaged in strengthening India’s engagement with the international system and on key global issues involving science and technology.



As part of its work programme, RIS has been deeply involved in strengthening economic integration in the South Asia region. In this context, the role of the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) is very important. SACEPS is a network organisation engaged in addressing regional issues of common concerns in South Asia.



Knowledge generated endogenously among the Southern partners can help in consolidation of stronger common issues at different global policy fora. The purpose of NeST is to provide a global platform for Southern Think-Tanks for collaboratively generating, systematising, consolidating and sharing knowledge on South South Cooperation approaches for international development.



DST-Satellite Centre for Policy Research on STI Diplomacy at RIS aims to advance policy research at the intersection of science, technology, innovation (STI) and diplomacy, in alignment with India’s developmental priorities and foreign policy objectives.

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