

PROJECT REPORT

To study how Telecommunication and Telehealth is helping to deliver emergency patient services in COVID – 19.

Submitted by – Shefali Shivaji Sakpal

Roll no. – 1195

Submitted to – Mr. Arindam Das

INTRODUCTION

- Throughout the COVID – 19 crisis, a countrywide lockdown was implied which reduced accessibility of regular healthcare services. As a response to policy, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which examine jurisdiction over Telemedicine in India, issued swiftly India's first guidelines to avail Telemedicine. Due to lockdown services like out-patient department in most of the government and private medical colleges were either shut down or lessen the availability of services.
- As many other countries worldwide responded, India responded the same. With telemedicine and modern technologies, less than a week of the lockdown hospital OPD department and certain other healthcare facilities took a step up with initiating telemedicine services. Every single provider from large private hospitals to individual practitioner commenced telemedicine services.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the knowledge regarding the pandemic.
- To study whether telecommunication and Telehealth is reliable when it comes to global crisis.
- To contribute to Health sector.

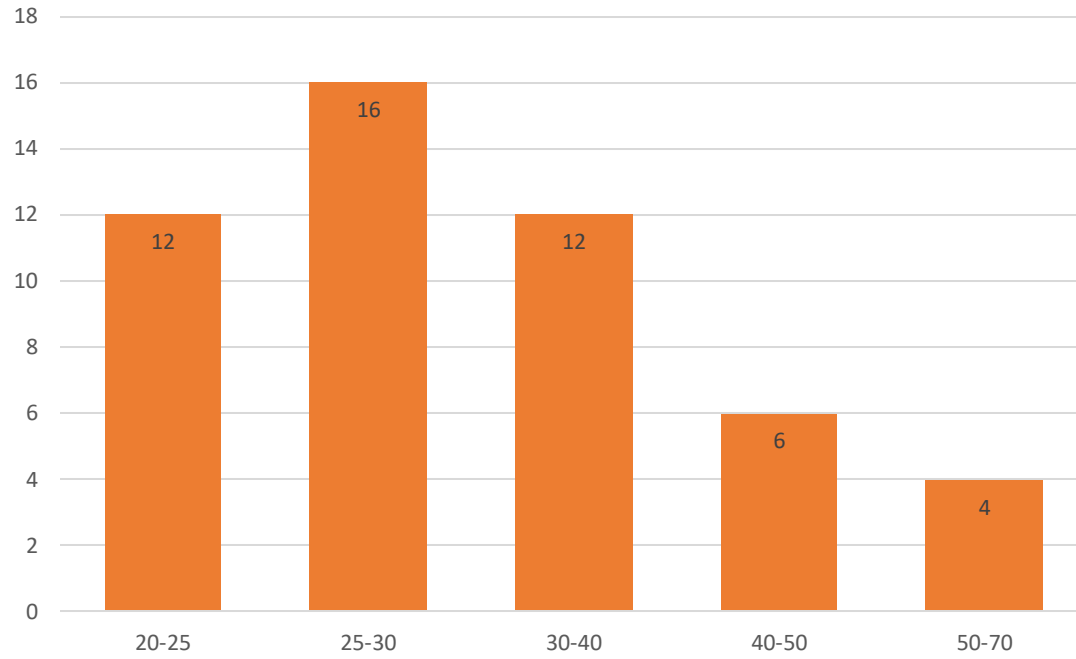
MATERIAL & METHODS

- Research Design - This is a cross-sectional, descriptive type of study carried out as a survey amongst population of Above 18 years all over India.
- Sampling technique – Convenience Sampling is used which is a nonprobability sampling where population is easily accessible, available at any given time and willing to participate.
- Study tool - An online form was created using google forms inclusive consent for voluntary participation, the questionnaire was forwarded through means of Email, WhatsApp, and other social media platforms. The study began on 1st July 2021, and the responses were collected till 4th July 2021.

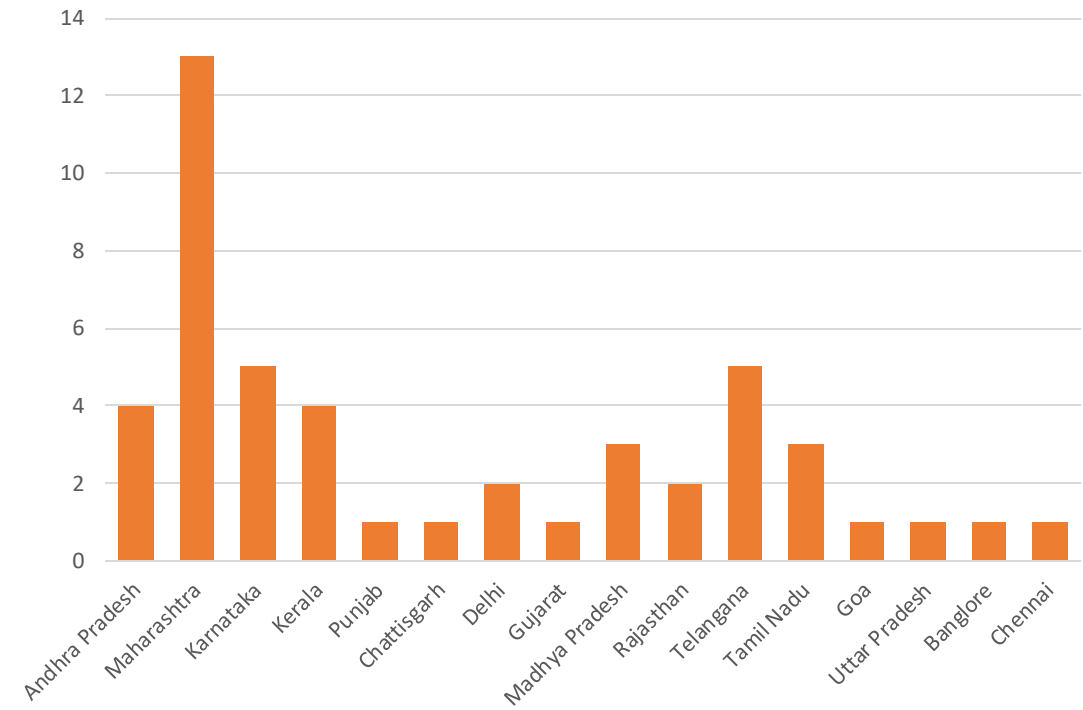
RESULTS

- First Few questions were based on Sociodemographic details like age, sex, location. This helped us to understand which age group currently was affected more by COVID-19 and at what location. Again as the data was collected using convenience method so we generalised this to whole population.
- Rest of the questions were to understand the awareness and impact of COVID-19 on both telemedicine and telecommunication.
- What we understood is that this pandemic has given us a reality check of what we lacking in. Telemedicine is the need of hour. People are using websites, apps and social media to get help and spread awareness.
- On call consultantion with doctors, using apps for appointments and medications, uber for ambulance all of these sources are in high demand right now.

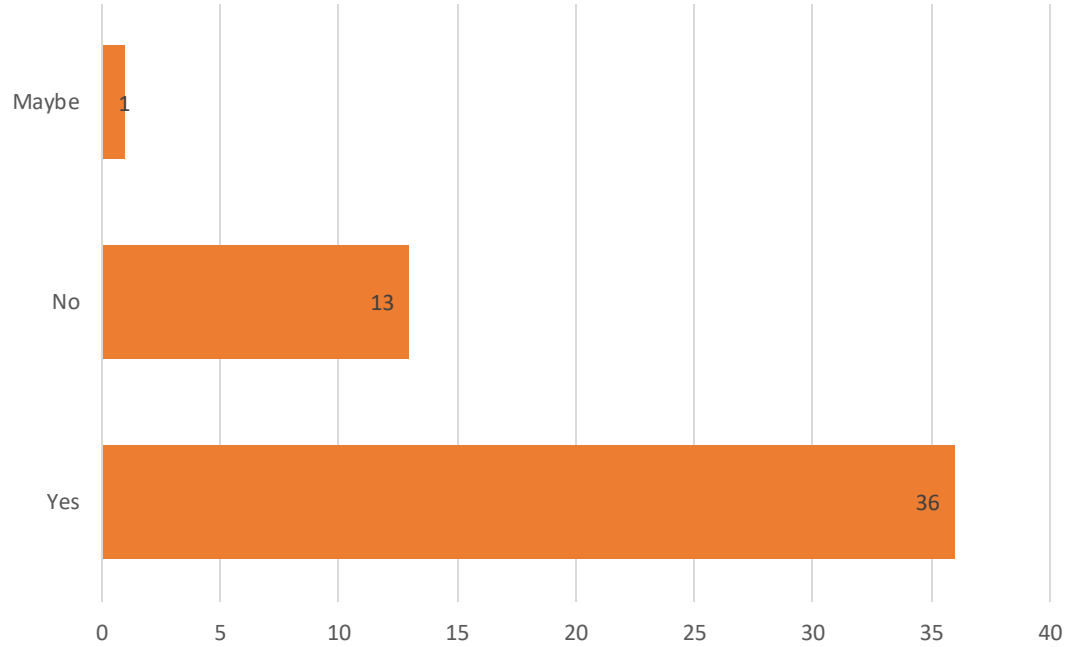
WHAT IS YOUR AGE?



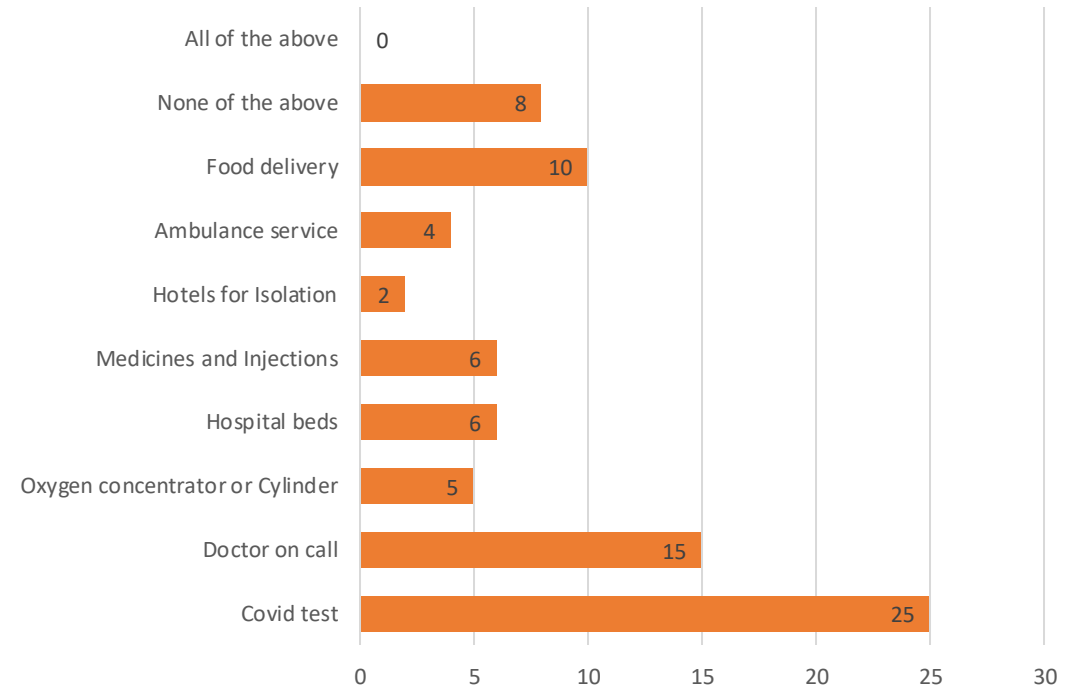
WHICH STATE YOU BELONG TO ?



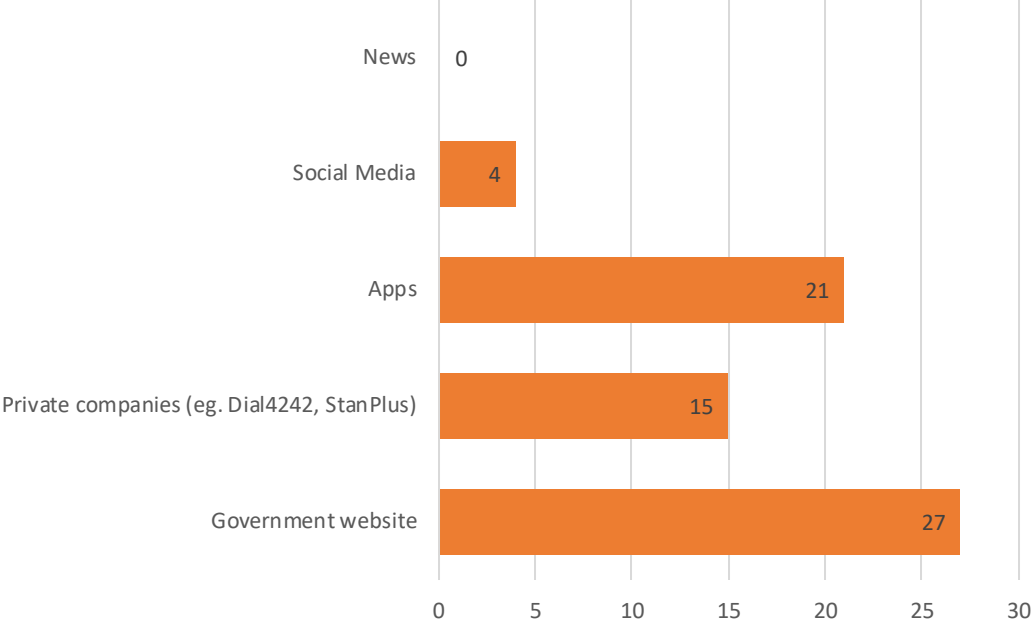
HAVE YOU HEARD OF UBER AMBULANCE OR AIR AMBULANCE



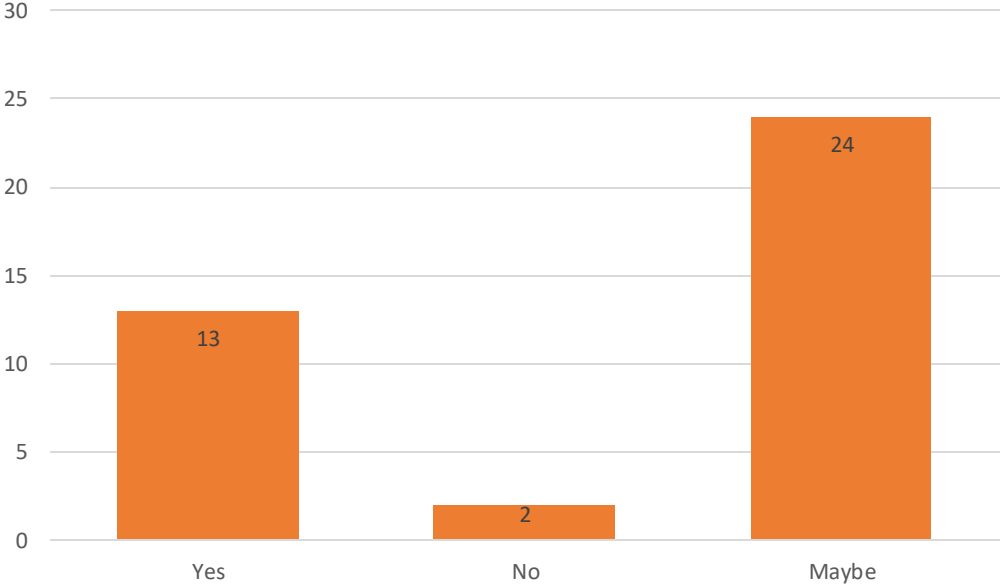
HAVE YOU USED ANY OF THESE MEDICAL RESOURCES OR SERVICES DURING PANDEMIC?



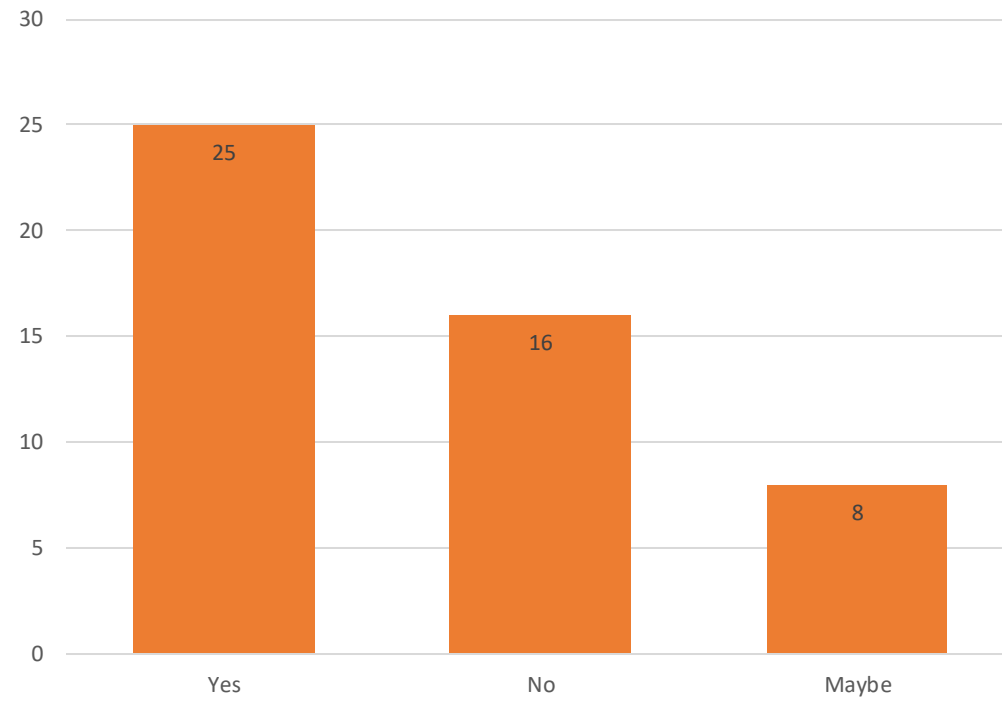
IF YES,
WHICH SOURCE HELPED YOU THE MOST?



IF NOT USED ANY SERVICES, WILL YOU EVER
CONSIDER RELYING ON THEM IN SUCH CRISIS?



DO WE HAVE ENOUGH MEDICAL HEALTH FACILITIES
IN INDIA TO FIGHT THIS GLOBAL CRISIS?



DISCUSSION

- Overall reflex to the COVID – 19 crisis, healthcare sector has increased the usage of telecommunications. Starting from medical schools to residency programs, from patient interaction at home to those in isolation, virtual communication is furnishing a secure way to continue with our responsibilities during this global crisis. According to POTUS (17 March 2020), telemedicine, with reduced HIPAA regulations, is now an approved method of interactions between physicians and patients for Medicare. Telemedicine is the one thing that can provide protection to both the patient and physician, by preventing the possible spread of COVID – 19 while physicians treat the patients and practice. COVID -19 has given us a perception for why telecommunication is necessary and its effective use to stabilize the healthcare system in our country. First wave gave us the mere glimpse, but second wave has shaken us to wake up and start working on it.
- The COVID – 19 pandemic has created an prompt need of alternative paths of communication. Virtual communication and the base of it must get more stronger as we can see how crucial it has become for our country. It is essential to maintain a connection between healthcare workforce all over the nation, specially with the team and patients within the hotspot.

LIMITATIONS & CONCLUSION

LIMITATIONS:

- The sampling method used for the survey is convenience sampling method hence the results cannot be generalized to the whole population. As the data was shared amongst known contacts and near my locality it could not analyze which state was utilizing telehealth more prominently.

CONCLUSION:

- This study gives a all - inclusive and analytical review by completely exploring the portentous potential of telehealth during the COVID – 19 outbreak. The study was regulated to understand the role of telehealth. As COVID – 19 has significantly scaled worldwide, calls for the not so new concept as innovative solution, clearly highlights the unmet needs of healthcare industry.
- Telehealth has the power to address the issues or challenges in delivering health services during the outbreak. Helping us in avoiding direct contact and minimize the risk of transmitting the virus by finally providing the continual of healthcare to the community.

THANK YOU