

Research Synopsis

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Title: Digital Health on the Ground: Strategies for Hospital Adoption

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Abstract

The integration of digital health technologies in Indian hospitals is essential for improving efficiency, patient care, and data management. Despite policy-level advancements, on-ground adoption remains inconsistent due to infrastructural challenges, staff resistance, and workflow disruptions. This research explores the practical implementation of digital health systems—specifically smart Hospital Information Management Systems (HIMS) and Electronic Medical Records (EMRs)—with a focus on real-world hospital settings. The study aims to identify key drivers and barriers of adoption, using secondary data and field-level observations. The goal is to develop actionable strategies that can support smoother, faster, and scalable adoption of digital health tools across hospitals in India.

Introduction

Digital transformation in healthcare is critical for modernizing clinical workflows, enhancing operational efficiency, and improving patient outcomes. However, the transition from manual systems to digital platforms in Indian hospitals is often complex and fragmented. Hospitals face challenges such as lack of trained staff, resistance to new technologies, insufficient interoperability, and unstructured implementation processes. This research focuses on identifying practical strategies for the on-ground adoption of digital health systems, using Chikitsa.io—a Web 3.0 smart HIMS with integrated EMR/EHR capabilities—as a case in point

Literature Review

Adoption of Digital Health in India

Despite government initiatives like the ABDM and HCX, many hospitals struggle with the practical adoption of digital health systems due to budget constraints, lack of IT infrastructure, and training gaps (NHA, 2023).

Hospital Information Management Systems (HIMS)

Effective HIMS platforms streamline operations and improve clinical documentation, but success depends on user-friendliness, adaptability to workflows, and stakeholder buy-in.

Implementation Barriers & Enablers

Studies show that involving medical and administrative staff in planning, providing real-time support, and integrating systems without disrupting workflows are key enablers for successful adoption.

This research builds on these insights to analyze digital transformation at the hospital level and proposes a realistic implementation framework.

Objectives/Aims of the Study

To analyze the on-ground challenges faced during the implementation of digital health systems in hospitals.

To explore the role of cross-functional coordination in the successful adoption of HIMS/EMR platforms.

To propose a practical, scalable framework for improving digital health adoption at the hospital

Methodology

Research Design

Qualitative exploratory research based on case study analysis and secondary data.

Sampling Methods & Participant Selection

Not applicable – no primary research or surveys conducted.

Data Sources

1. Reports from NHA, ABDM, and WHO
2. Industry insights from Chikitsa.io implementation
3. White papers and journals on healthcare digitization
4. Field-level learnings from hospital coordination and system deployment

Data Collection Method

Secondary data analysis and field observations during hospital onboarding and software implementation.

Data Analysis Techniques

Thematic analysis and implementation mapping to identify success factors, pain points, and process models.

Ethical Considerations

No direct interaction with patients; all data is from public, academic, and professional sources. Observations during implementation-maintained confidentiality and followed hospital protocols.

Expected Outcomes

1. A practical strategy framework for step-by-step HIMS/EMR adoption.
2. Identification of key operational and behavioral barriers in Indian hospital settings.
3. Recommendations for healthtech companies on product positioning, training models, and stakeholder engagement.

Timeline (Week-by-Week Work Division)

Week	Tasks & Activities
1	Literature review on digital health and HIMS adoption challenges
2	Identify key case studies and hospital implementation models
3	Analyze Chikitsa.io hospital integration process
4	Map hospital workflows and role-based usage patterns
5	Identify gaps and enablers in the implementation journey
6	Develop strategic framework for scalable adoption
7	Draft introduction and literature review
8	Draft methodology and outcome sections
9	Create visual models and framework diagrams
10	Compile abstract and references
11	Edit and finalize full report
12	Proofread, finalize and submit report

Budget (if applicable)

Not applicable – research based entirely on secondary data and field learning during internship.

References

1. National Health Authority (2023). ABDM Guidelines on Digital Health.
2. WHO South-East Asia (2022). Digital Transformation of Health Systems.
3. Deloitte (2023). Transforming Healthcare Through Digital Platforms.
4. Kotler, P. & Keller, K.L. (2019). Marketing Management (15th Ed.). Pearson.
5. Chikitsa.io Internal Training and Implementation Documents (2024–2025).

Appendices (if needed)

1. Sample Workflow Maps
2. Implementation Timeline Snapshots
3. Software Feature Summary (if required)

