Inclusive Healthcare

What is the issue?

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With increasing emphasis on technology in healthcare, it is essential to ensure that it does not leave out the most in real want of it.

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What is the need?

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- The need for a healthy relationship between technology and medicine is vital in today's world.
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- This relationship is determined by the interaction between tech companies and the medical profession.
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- The entry of technology is believed to close the gap of relative lack of medical professionals to cover India’s large population.
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- The logic is that e-health and phone advice could address this lacuna.
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- But on deeper reflection, this view seems to be flawed, given the nature of functioning of the healthcare system in India.
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What are the concerns in India?

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- The number of medical professionals for the able-to-pay populace (as against the total population) is far too many (more than in developed nations).
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- So the majority of Indians, who cannot pay, are unable to access the level of medical care available to the favoured few.
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- Tech companies, being corporate bodies and profit-seeking, are driven to focus on the patients who can pay.
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- Notably, this section is the same favoured few served by medical professionals.
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- The fact that they want to serve the unattended many is hence suppressed.
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- There is lack of effort to elevate the earning capacity, improve the health standards of the people and improve the quality of public hospitals.
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- So the aim of technology should be to help the underserved receive the same quality of care available to the fortunate few.
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- It should complement and improve the ability of professionals to do their assigned tasks.
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Source: New Indian Express

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