

# DHIndia Association

## **An introduction**

## Document History

**Document Name:**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Member</b>
1.0	4 Sept 2019	Authored the document	Multiple authors
1.1	10 Oct 2019	Review and revision	Uma Nambiar
1.1	29 Oct 2019	Approved the document	Pramod Jacob

## Contents

### Contents

Vision .....	4
Mission.....	4
Objectives at a glance .....	5
Important Objectives -Explained .....	6
A. Government advisory .....	6
B. Industry Partnership and Involvement .....	7
C. Training and Certification.....	8
D. Academic Liaison .....	8

## Introduction to the DHIndia Association

Also known as Digital Health India Association

### Vision

Enable best of health and care to individuals and populations through optimal implementation of effective digitization in healthcare.

### Mission

- **Build capacity** in health informatics through development of curriculum, educational activities, accreditation and professional development
- **Promote cross-disciplinary approaches** to solving healthcare challenges by fostering collaboration between various specialties within healthcare, technology, health informatics, population health, and allied disciplines
- **Close the gap between research and practice** as well as between education and implementation through effective use of information science and technology through participation in the forums for innovation, incubation and mentoring the industry and associating formally with the academic institutions.
- **Advise policymakers** on strategic and tactical initiatives, national standards and regulatory activities related to Digital Health for the improvement of healthcare and cross-disciplinary education and research
- **Serve as the national venue** for scientific and industry spotlights spanning the breadth and depth of health informatics as well as the liaison to the broader international scientific and industry community

## Objectives at a glance

### **Digital Health advisory**

#### Governmental

Involvement in core committees on Digital Health – State and Central

Input and review for Digital Health tenders and implementation – State and Central

#### Non-Governmental

Private alliance – Mission/Trust organisations

Global multilateral engagements

### **Academic liaison**

Curriculum validation

Internships

### **Industry partnership**

Software accreditation

Interoperability accreditations / Connectathons

Internships and placements

Mentoring / Innovation / incubation / reviews of success stories and

compilation of the evidence based best practices

### **Workforce development**

Academic courses

Skills training

Trainee placements

### **Knowledge & advocacy**

Conferences – Organize – the 'melting pot' of healthcare and IT

Workshops – Hackathons, Webinar

Journal and newsletters

Interactive Forums – moderated discussions, collaborative.

### **Thought leadership**

Branch activities – support formation of local chapters

Memberships – add validated members

Affiliations & Partnerships – Telemedicine Society of India, Indian Medical Association, International Medical Informatics Association, etc

## Important Objectives –Explained

### A. Government advisory

**Opportunity / Problem**– the Indian National Health Policy 2017 clearly recognizes and states the vital role that Healthcare Information Technology will play in the future of Healthcare in the country. Furthermore, the advent of the Nationwide Universal Health Coverage program (Ayushman Bharat) in India, that is being facilitated by a strong Information Technology platform, namely the National Health Stack (NHS) and the National Digital Health Blueprint, is expected to provide the spark or catalyst to bring about digitisation of healthcare in India. This in turn provides DHIndia that once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase the expertise, domain knowledge, guidance and support towards this digital revolution that this forum can provide. Important expert input and recommendations on the architecture and setting up of this National health Stack with the National Digital Health Blueprint, associated Healthcare Information Systems and other related applications that are best suited for the local conditions in India, is the need of the hour.

### Objectives / Solutions

- Recognition by the government both at the Centre and the States of the role that DHIndia can play by providing the expertise that the forum has.
- Active participation and involvement in committees and subcommittees for HIT platform, architecture , applications , standards and projects by MOHFW and other government bodies both at the Central and State levels.
- Facilitate in drawing up RFPs, reviewing of best responses to RFP/ Tenders keep track of deployments and implementation, ensure the success of projects including ongoing support, maintenance and training.

**Impact** – For long this forum has felt the need to meaningfully contribute and participate in the betterment of healthcare in India, to bring about Swasth Bharat, with enablement through Information Technology – which is absolutely a requirement for achieving this goal. The coming of the IT enabled Universal Health Coverage Ayushman Bharat program provides the much-awaited impetus to bring in the expertise of the association and recognition of DHIndia.

## B. Industry Partnership and Involvement

**Opportunity /Problem** – Of recent times, especially in the last two years, there has been a realization of the importance and acceptance of the role of information technology in all aspects of healthcare, including clinical services. In addition, the introduction of the IT enabled Nationwide Universal Health Coverage program– Ayushman Bharat has added impetus to its importance. Not only are there requirements to be addressed in the HIT vendors’ domain but more importantly in the Healthcare providers space like hospitals and clinics too.

### **Solutions / Objectives**

- Provide expertise to HIT industry to develop affordable standard compliant, user-friendly, highly functional and configurable applications that are relevant to the Indian context and preferably open source based, across multiple platforms. With ability to exchange data with other standard compliant systems or data repositories (interoperability)
- Guidance and consultation – Educate and give guidance to Healthcare organisations such as hospitals and clinics in their journey towards digitisation, such as selection of appropriate applications, project planning and execution
- Represent the Healthcare organisations and vendors in dialogue with regulatory bodies and policy makers or facilitate dialogue.

**Impact** – It has long been felt that the expertise that this forum represents has not been utilised by those who can benefit from it (like Healthcare organizations and HIT vendors). If the above objectives are met, not only would DHIndia be acknowledged for the expertise and contribution to the future of healthcare in the country but also the self-worth of the organization and its members will get its rightful fulfilment and due.

## C. Training and Certification

**Problem/opportunity** – With Healthcare Information Technology coming into mainstream in India both in the Public (Ayushman Bharat, National Health Stack, NDHB) and Private domain, along with it being a focus area in the National Health Policy – 2017, there is going to be an almost immediate need for trained industry ready human resources, especially at the foot soldier / workhorse levels at the base of the HIT human resources pyramid.

### Solutions / Objectives –

1. Immediate need to have a recognized effective foundational certification course in HIT in India – whether DHIndia can set up this foundational certification course on our own or with partner institutions – will have to be worked on.
2. For advanced courses such as Intermediate and Masters courses with sub specialization– Set up recommended guidelines and syllabus and have an approval process for those institutions that will hold these courses.
3. Have different expert members in DHIndia take face to face or web sessions in their areas of expertise

**Impact** – Most importantly will provide the essential requirement of trained human resources to carry out the digitization of Healthcare in India. With DHIndia actively involved in providing solutions for this glaring deficiency – will catapult the Association as the “go to” for human resource development and expertise in Healthcare Information Technology.

## D. Academic Liaison

In India, public and private hospitals are striving to deliver quality healthcare to more than one billion people in cost effective and reliable manner. Healthcare providers are exploring the possibilities of using information and communication technologies (like telemedicine, self-monitoring mobile applications etc.) to address the challenges in making quality care accessible to all. The country has witnessed rapid penetration of internet and smart phones in the past decade, it is unavoidable that health information technology (IT) will become ubiquitous. Besides healthcare professionals even allied industries, e.g. health equipment manufacturers, hospital information management system developers etc. will have to integrate IT into their



design. Information systems have already enabled disruptive changes in various industries like banking, transportation etc. Since, disruptive changes in a field have a greater influence on future generations it is crucial that current students be provided a platform to engage and participate in the change process. The DHIndia Association is an ideal platform for exchange of ideas among medical practitioners, system designers & implementers, and researchers. A student body under the aegis of DHIndia can facilitate the necessary participatory opportunities for future generations to engage and even shape the future of medical Informatics.

### **Solutions / Objectives:**

- Internship opportunities with technology companies and hospitals using IT, leveraging DHIndia network
- Guidance on academic research in health IT from domain experts
- Assistance on product research for startups in healthcare technologies from industry specialists
- Certification courses and workshops on topics like AI in health, data analytics for health epidemiology, standards and standardization in health
- Volunteering opportunities with organizations and institutions working in health IT sector
- Updates regarding health HIT related domestic and international conferences

### **Impact:**

Student participation could lead to useful innovations and enable various disciplines (health, technology, design and information systems) to find solutions to the toughest of problems through collaboration, while ensuring quality and cost-effective healthcare. Participation of students from varied disciplines and backgrounds could ensure that adoption of IT for healthcare in India is driven broadly by clinical, societal and business requirements.