

## **READINESS OF MANAGERS AND HEALTH CARE WORKERS FOR E-HEALTH: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY IN KHARTOUM PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTERS, SUDAN** *BMC Health Services Research* volume 23, Article number: 1399 (2023)

### **BACKGROUND**

e-Health is defined as “the use, in the health sector, of digital data—transmitted, stored and retrieved electronically—for clinical, educational and administrative purposes, both at the local site and at a distance”.

### **OBJECTIVES**

In Primary health care (PHC), the role of e-Health in promoting PHC systems defines its need to achieve the PHC aims. This literary work aims to study the readiness of managers and healthcare workers for e-Health at Khartoum state PHC centers.

### **METHODOLOGY**

This was a facility-based, cross-sectional study in Khartoum State PHC centers (327 workers, multi-stage sampling). Data collected using a validated self-administered questionnaire assessing e-Health readiness in four categories. Statistical analysis conducted in SPSS, including Mann-Whitney U, Kruskal-Wallis, and regression tests ( $p < 0.05$ ). Ethical approval obtained, and written informed consent ensured adherence to the Declaration of Helsinki. Data analyzed for readiness scores and key influencing factors.

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### **CONCLUSION**

The study highlights the need for targeted strategies to enhance e-Health readiness in PHC centers, focusing on technological, policy, and learning readiness to improve healthcare delivery and digital transformation.

### **MAJOR FINDINGS**

The study found moderate e-Health readiness in Khartoum PHC centers, with strengths in staff ICT use and awareness of ICT benefits. Weaknesses included low technological readiness, poor reimbursement policies, insufficient training, and limited staff involvement in planning. Managers scored 52.8% and healthcare workers 55.3% overall, with significant variations by occupation and center type but no strong demographic associations.

### **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

Sudan's e-Health efforts began in 2005 but face challenges like inadequate policies, financial constraints, and limited workforce involvement. This study reveals gaps in e-Health readiness, especially in learning and reimbursement, emphasizing the need for capacity building and policy reform. The ongoing armed conflict highlights the urgent need for nationwide assessments and robust e-Health strategies to adapt to current and post-conflict challenges.