SPAGN Advocacy In Action Award 2022

DigiSwasthya

1st Prize: Telemedicine For Cancer Care in Rural India

In July 2020, Sandeep Kumar, a survivor of Ewing Sarcoma, started a groundbreaking initiative to provide remote healthcare in Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, a rural area in northern India.

Initially conceived as a project to provide teleconsultation services for remote patients who did not have access to sarcoma experts or specialised care centres. the project evolved into а comprehensive solution that includes primary health checkups, expert opinions from specialists, accurate diagnoses, follow-up care, medication, and support for diagnostic tests, counselling, and skill development post treatment.

Achievements

Using a hub-and-spoke model, the project has provided medical consultations to over 22K patients at five teleconsultation centers since 2020. The project has helped Sarcoma patients by providing with second them opinions, consultations with experts, diagnostic tests, medication, and continuous follow-up care.

This initiative to provide remote healthcare in rural areas of India is much needed and by providing end-to-end services the project is helping to improve access to medical care for those who need it most.

What was the primary value to Sarcoma patients?

This project has provided timely and effective diagnosis and medical care to patients suffering from cancer and sarcoma who reside in areas where access to healthcare is limited.

DigiSwasthya also facilitates online consultations with oncologists and experts in Tier 1 cities. If an inperson consultation is necessary, they also support fund-raising efforts to make this possible.

Additionally, they offer support ranging from nutritional guidance, financial assistance, emotional counseling, government programs, and accommodation when necessary. They also hold informal survivor clinics. All of this helps survivors to regain a sense of normalcy in their lives after their successful battle with Cancer.