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Digital Skills And Research Methods

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Table of contents.

Table of contents.....	2
Introduction.....	3
The use of contemporary technology in healthcare.....	4
The use of technology during Covid-10.....	5
The use of digital communication, collaboration and participation.....	6
Digital identity, well-being and safety.....	7
The use of digital literacy for professional career development.....	8
The relevance of technical proficiency for information, data handling.....	9
Conclusion.....	10
Resources.....	11

Introduction

In this report, I will be evaluating the use of technology, digital tools and techniques that improve efficiency in healthcare. I will be discussing how digital literacy for healthcare practitioners and professionals has impacted their living, learning and working. I will also be discussing various topics such as the use of technology during Covid-19, the use of digital literacy for professional career development, and more. I will then reach a conclusion where I will gather all the ideas discussed in this report.



1.The use of contemporary technology in healthcare

Contemporary technology has made the efficiency of healthcare better in a very huge way. Technology improves day by day, and many of its effects are often felt in our daily lives, including our healthcare system. What's been the biggest impact of technology within healthcare? It is difficult to list, with no doubt, if you ask someone what the greatest impact of technology on healthcare has been on, almost all would answer that providing new machines, drugs and other treatments that save lives and improve the chances of recovery for billions of people is the biggest improvement of technology in healthcare. Better treatment means less suffering.

Another big improvement in overall healthcare has been information technologies. This technology has made patient care much safer and more reliable than ever. Nurses and doctors can use computers to record and access a patient's online medical history, to store new information or to check that the correct treatment is being given to the patient. And as more institutions are adopting electronic records, patients have easier access to their own information so they too can understand what is being done with them.

By analyzing the health information people have searched online, search engines such as Google and many others have been able to predict medical trends such as flu outbreaks with incredible precision. This breakthrough will help medical experts respond to outbreaks quickly and take action faster than ever before. And as more and more people use the web to search for their own medical problems, these search engines will have even more information to apply to scientific studies.

2.The use of technology during Covid-19

After the coronavirus outbreak that originated in Wuhan, China, the new digital tools are put at the service of the first responders, authorities, GPs, schools and many other organizations to contain the virus as well as search for cures for this disease. Since December 2019, the world has been changed by the outbreak of Covid-19, this infectious disease has put the most advanced technology to the test. The huge increase in the use of technology within the NHS has made it much easier and convenient for patients to get the appropriate care remotely. Therefore reducing the risk of contracting the Virus. With software such as;

- NHS App allows people access to a high range of NHS services on their phones or smart devices.
- E-prescription services allow patients to choose the pharmacy they would like their prescription sent electronically to without the need of going to a GP or see the doctor in person.
- Virtual Appointments where a patient can speak to their doctor via a phone call, video call or simply through messages within the NHS app.

It is pretty clear that necessity has driven the huge increase in the use of digital technology. Remote options such as the ones mentioned above have been able to address the challenge that the NHS is facing of becoming overwhelmed.

3. The use of digital communication, collaboration and participation

Communication, collaboration and participation is the common ability for caregivers and care recipients that refers to the knowledge, the skills and the attitudes needed for online communication through software or apps. It refers to the connecting and collaborating with other users and participating in online communities. It also involves the interacting with others and engaging in online activities with other people.

It refers to learning communication protocols such as understanding how digital information is distributed, represented and managed. It refers to maintaining online connections with others in both written and spoken communication. It refers to the organization and collaboration of work online. It is the ability to work together online.

4. Digital identity, well-being and safety

A digital identity is a collection of characteristics and data associated with a unique individual, stored and used for online transactions and interactions. A digital identity can be put into 4 categories:

- Digital identity as a credential. It is the key information that people traditionally use to identify themselves. It can be found on government-issued documents such as driver's licenses, passports, birth certificates, or health cards.
- Digital identity as a character. It would be something similar to the self-portrait of an individual online. Such as an Instagram profile, youtube channel etc.
- Digital identity as a user. This version is the collection of information related to a user. This would be gathered from search history, preferences, interests, watch history, etc.
- Digital identity as reputation. This is derived from information that is publicly available and created by reputable third parties. Examples of this are; criminal records, employment histories, academic qualifications, etc.

Digital identity is an extension of our offline reality or of what we ourselves are and, therefore, it can condition our life. This is why ensuring your safety is so important. Protecting our information with passwords updated periodically, protecting our devices with specific software, distrusting messages that come to us from people we do not know or suspicious addresses, and not trusting anyone with our authentication codes or passwords.

5. The use of digital literacy for professional career development

Digital literacy is of vital importance for our society to adapt to new learning technologies and forms of working from home. Educational platforms have become a part of our lives, today people are more connected than ever and digital technology is constantly changing the way we study and work. Technological advancements also provide us with opportunities to revolutionize education by using digital tools to support learning. Today there are different platforms that offer a series of digital qualifications to help address the skills gap and increase students' knowledge and ability in this key area.

The spread of the coronavirus around the world has left millions of students and workers at home, forcing academic institutions and companies to adopt digital learning. Online training has also become the best option to ensure education and to facilitate this they use video streaming softwares such as Zoom, Google Meet, etc.

6. The relevance of technical proficiency for information, data handling

Technical proficiency are those skills associated with a specific job or profession. It is basically about having knowledge in the sense that one is competent and capable of using certain essential tools to comply with the daily performance required by that specific job or profession.

Basic work skills are those necessary to carry out the most of the professions in the world of work. They are usually acquired during compulsory training. We refer to skills such as knowing how to read and write, basic calculation operations, knowledge of office automation and the Internet, etc. These skills also include knowing how to access the job market and knowing the sector in which you want to work.

Conclusion

Overall, the use of technology has impacted the world of healthcare in a massive way. Definitely for the better and it is likely that it will keep changing, evolving as well as adopting new technologies and practices. It is also more than likely that many of the practices, software and apps introduced because of Covid-19 will stay as to reduce unnecessary contact and keep the virus spread to a minimum.

Resources

<https://builtin.com/healthcare-technology>

<https://aimseducation.edu/blog/the-impact-of-technology-on-healthcare>

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/coronavirus-education-global-covid19-online-digital-learning/>