

Transforming lives in India by providing high-tech yet affordable robotic rehabilitation for neurological diseases.

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Abstract

First of its kind unique and transformative project in India that provides high-tech robotics and brain stimulation programs at affordable rates to average citizens. Millions of people around the world suffer from physical and cognitive disabilities due to neurological diseases such as stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury and Parkinson's disease etc.. It is estimated that at least 2.1 million people in India suffer from disabilities. About 2.5% of the population has chronic neurological diseases and 1.8 million people annually suffer from stroke. Stroke is the leading cause of death and disability world-wide. Unfortunately, for people in low and middle income countries (LMICs), this burden is compounded due to poor rehabilitation caused by three factors: (a) lack of awareness that rehabilitation can improve quality of life, (b) lack of availability and access to high quality rehab and (c) inability to pay for high-tech rehabilitation. A4 Clinics in India is a positive social impact venture to reduce the burden of "unnecessary disability" from neurological diseases. We provide comprehensive state-of-the-art Neurorehabilitation program with the following unique features: (a) Advanced yet affordable tech-enabled rehab including upper extremity robotics, non-invasive brain stimulation and virtual rehabilitation (b) Evidence-based clinical protocols that offer the best possibility of recovery (c) Rigorous methodology for quality control. In our two operational clinics in tier-2 cities, to date we have provided successful treatment to about 850 neurological patients. I hope our experience will help people in other LMICs to start similar projects to reduce neurological disability.

Biography:

Dr. Abha Agrawal is an alumna of Harvard and Yale Universities, a Fulbright Scholar, an author of several books on patient safety and health information technology, and an international leader in healthcare and health technology. She is the founder of A4 CLINICS and Institute for Healthcare Innovation and Transformation. She completed her MBBS in Agra, India, post-graduation in Medicine at the State University Of New York and a fellowship in Medical Informatics at Yale School of Medicine. She was teaching faculty at Harvard Medical School, Northwestern University and State University of New York in Brooklyn.

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