

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52596

Date: 01/07/2025

Title: "Role of Apollo TeleHealth and Telemedicine in Dermatological Care Delivery in Himachal Pradesh"

### Recommendation:

- ✓ Accept as it is .....  
 Accept after minor revision.....  
 Accept after major revision .....  
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath

Date: 02/07/2025

### Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

The paper concludes that Apollo TeleHealth's teledermatology model significantly enhances dermatological care in the challenging terrains of Himachal Pradesh, fostering improved diagnosis, treatment, and patient engagement. It emphasizes the importance of integrating community outreach, education, and technological enhancements to address climate and accessibility barriers. The study suggests that such models are not only effective locally but also hold promise for broader implementation across similar remote regions in India and beyond. Further research into long-term outcomes and strategies to overcome infrastructure limitations is recommended to bolster the sustainability of this healthcare delivery approach.

### Reviewer's Comment / Report

#### Strengths:

- **Innovative Model:** The paper highlights a novel telemedicine-based approach (ATH) tailored for remote and high-altitude regions, demonstrating a practical and scalable healthcare solution.
- **Comprehensive Data:** It utilizes a substantial dataset (1812 cases) collected over a full year, covering all seasons, which strengthens the validity of its findings related to seasonal variations and disease prevalence.
- **Holistic Approach:** The study not only focuses on clinical outcomes but also explores community outreach, health education, and the integration of environmental factors like climate.
- **Policy Alignment:** The research aligns with national telemedicine guidelines, emphasizing a model that is potentially replicable and sustainable nationally.
- **Impact on Accessibility:** Demonstrates the potential of teledermatology to improve healthcare equity, especially in underserved rural and high-altitude communities.

#### Weaknesses:

- **Lack of Quantitative Long-term Outcomes:** While the study reports improved access and immediate clinical outcomes, long-term impact data such as patient adherence, recurrence rates, or quality of life improvements are not provided.
- **Limited Generalizability:** The focus is specific to Himachal Pradesh; applicability to other regions with different environmental or infrastructural contexts remains to be validated.
- **Technical Challenges:** Internet connectivity issues and digital literacy barriers are acknowledged but not detailed in terms of how they are systematically addressed.
- **Cost-analysis Absence:** There's limited discussion about the cost-effectiveness of the telehealth model, which is crucial for large-scale deployment.