Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

TESTING THE FEASIBILITY OF ELECTRONIC PHARMACY IN THE HOHOE MUNICIPALITY

Category:

New technologies in health and digitalisation of the health system

Authors:

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Objectives:

The aim of this study was to build and test an e-Pharmacy platform in the Hohoe Municipality, Ghana.

Method:

An e-pharmacy application was developed using Appgyver, a low-code platform. The app allowed users to select local pharmacies, choose medication categories, and interact with pharmacists via WhatsApp. Fifty-one 51 tertiary students, including 24 females and 27 males living in Hohoe were recruited to use the e-pharmacy platform for active purchase of pharmaceutical products for one month. The experiences such as the effectiveness and challenges of the users of the e-pharmacy platform were assessed using a structured questionnaire in the app review. The data was analyzed using STATA version 16 and the data summaries presented in frequencies, percentages, charts and tables for clarity.

Results:

The study found a high acceptance rate (70.6%) for the e-pharmacy app among participants, with 92.2% finding it easy to use and 94.1% feeling comfortable interacting with pharmacists. Despite the overall positive reception, some users reported issues such as application bugs (12.5%) and login problems (18.8%). Nevertheless, most participants (68.6%) did not encounter significant difficulties, and 80.4% always found their desired medications using the app. Additionally, the services were considered affordable by 84.3% of the users.

Conclusion:

The findings suggest that electronic pharmacy is feasible in Hohoe Municipality, given the high acceptance rate, ease of use, and affordability reported by users. Despite some challenges, the successful pilot indicates potential for broader implementation, provided that adequate resources and support are available.

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