

11 NEW DIGITAL WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRES LAUNCHED BY DIGITAL HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS AND SHAKTI FOUNDATION. INNOVATION BRINGS QUALITY MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE TO THE HEART OF COMMUNITIES

Free Digital Doctor services to 550,000 women also launched, in time for winter flu season

Digital Healthcare Solutions (DH), the provider of over 1,000,000 online medical consultations in Bangladesh, and Shakti Foundation, who works for the financial inclusion and women empowerment of almost half a million women through micro and SME financing, Health and other services, are teaming up to bring innovative healthcare solutions to Shakti borrowers and the surrounding community from 1st November.

DH and Shakti have installed new technology at 11 Shakti Medical Care Centers (SMCC), to upgrade them to Digital Women's Health Centers with the intention of further evolving the services with new, medical support for the other 70+ clinics. Shakti borrowers, and their families, can now access free unlimited MBBS doctor consultations via call, chat, or video call and specialist doctors including Gynecology, Pediatrics, Skin & Medicine Specialists. All consultations are provided via video, where previous tests report and prescriptions can be shared, new prescriptions and onward care referrals to local hospitals are provided digitally and printed locally. At certain Centers, rare or expensive medicines, and diagnostics, can be ordered digitally for later delivery to the Centre. Local Shakti community health workers and microfinance staff from the 11 communities are at the heart of the project, helping to identify borrowers with maternal or child health needs and refer them to the Digital Centers. In the first 3 days of piloting the service, over 100 women accessed appointments with the specialists – including 30 with Gynecologists, 20 with Pediatricians.

In addition, Shakti and DH have launched free digital doctor support for all Shakti members, who can now avail unlimited Doctor calls- 08 000 111 000 (toll-free), chat, and video call via the "Digital Hospital" app. Furthermore, up to 5,000 Shakti members are also trialing a new health plan from DH, combining unlimited access to doctors with Tk. 20,000 free health cashback coverage on hospital costs, through DH's Amra Shurokkhito package.

Andrew Smith, CCO of Digital Healthcare Solutions says, "The 11 Digital Women's Health Centers have huge potential, to bring top quality specialist advice to the heart of village or community via video. Over time, we can close the loop for all patients, with the Digital Women's' Health Centers being a point for screening, early detection, diagnostics, and safe, reliable medicine and empower those villages with health centers as economic hubs. A new offline-online model for Bangladesh, and great new health services for tens of thousands of women and families."

Imran Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director of Shakti Foundation, says "Shakti has always been a pioneer in using technology and digitalization of operations to bring maximum value to its disadvantaged clientele, more so in the present scenario where virtual services have become a necessity in every sphere of life. Our partnership with Digital Health to bring quality health services and online consultation with specialists to marginalized women and their families even in remote areas is yet another example of Shakti leveraging technology to disrupt the status-quo and reiterating its commitment to ensure good health and overall empowerment of women."

To know more about Digital Healthcare Solutions, call 08000111000 (toll-free) or visit dh.health.