

VIDUSUWA Wins India’s Prestigious “Manthan” Award **VIDUSUWA = A Patient Centric Telemedicine Solution for Electronic Remote Healing**

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Dr. Keith Chapman



Dr. Shiromi Arunatileka



The Manthan Award

Two Sri Lanka doctors, Dr Keith R P Chapman, Consultant General and Laparoscopic Surgeon from the Ministry of Health and Nutrition and Dr. Shiromi Arunatileka, Senior Lecturer, University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) recently received India’s prestigious “Manthan” award for Best e-Content in the category of eHealth in South Asia (www.manthanaward.org) for their work in **ViduSuwa (Vidyuth Durastha Suwaya)** – A Patient Centric Telemedicine Solution. According to the Grand Jury, the “Manthan” was awarded to ViduSuwa because the project is based on the concept of a patient centric approach in utilizing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and providing a working model developed solely by Sri Lankan professionals in Information Technology (IT) and health sectors to empower the rural population of Sri Lanka.

Earlier, ViduSuwa (www.vidusuwa.com) received national recognition by winning the “e-Swabhimani” award for best eContent for eHealth in Sri Lanka. The concept is well accepted at National and International level in IT and eHealth circles and at Conferences in e-Society, eIndia,

eAsia and eTeled. It has been the subject of discussion and education among healthcare professionals at several seminars on eHealth, both local and abroad.

The Vidusuwa software was developed by a team consisting of staff and BICT degree students from the University of Colombo School of Computing. The various aspects of the EMR itself were built to accommodate the local specialists who will be using the system and caters to many medical specialties. This project uses an evolutionary approach in order to have a smooth eTransformation. The pilot project is being carried out at the Base Hospital Marawila and the District Hospital Dankotuwa which are the specialist eConsultation Centre and the peripheral eClinic respectively. E-Consultations are conducted weekly in the fields of surgery and dermatology.

Financial assistance for the Vidusuwa project is provided by the e-Society Programme of the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA). The connectivity for the Pilot project is generously offered by Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT). Dr. Shiromi Arunatileka acknowledged the dedication and hard work of the Doctors and staff of Marawila, Dankotuwa and the National Hospital Colombo, all academic staff and students of UCSC who have contributed to making Vidusuwa a success.

The current practice section of the first issue of the Sri Lanka Journal of Biomedical Informatics carries a detailed project description of Vidusuwa ⁽¹⁾

Reference:

1. Chapman KPR and Arunathilake MKD. Vidusuwa – Electronic Distant Healing: A Patient Centric Telemedicine Solution in Sri Lanka. (2010) Sri Lanka Journal of Bio-medical Informatics 2010;1:63-75.
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