

# Research Achievement Report

Graduate School of Media and Governance

2<sup>nd</sup> Year Master Program

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## **Research Topic:**

Research on telehealth in Canada and Japan: current state and future directions

## **Background:**

Telehealth has emerged recently since the growth of modern technology. It is an umbrella term of providing various kinds of health care services in distance: clinical consultation, health promotion, diagnosis and so on. Many countries have adopted this modern technology method into their public healthcare system, including Canada and Japan. Both of the countries are facing the pressures of the growth of aging population, shortage of health care professionals, and to provide equivalent services in both urban and remote locations. They also have mentioned that they adapted this technology with the goal of to solve or at least to ease the associability to medical services problem in rural area. Telehomecare is one of the subfield within telehealth; it is to deliver health care services to patients at home through home-based monitoring devices. The proposed of my research is to do a cross-country comparison of telehomecare implementation between Japan and Canada.

## **Definition of telehomecare**

- To deliver health care services to patients at home through home-based monitoring devices. The devices measure and monitor patients' vital signs, such as blood pressure and blood sugar levels.

## **Research Objective**

- To identify factors that facilitate and maintain implementation of telehomecare program.
- To identify which country has a better implementation process of telehomecare program.

## **Methodology:**

- Secondary data
- Semi-structured interviews
- Voice recording

**Interviewees:**

- 5 telehomecare workers in Canada
- 2 telehomecare workers in Japan

The initiate basic understanding drawn from the interviews is that the implementation progress of telehomecare is quite different between the two countries. Japan has a low telehomecare implementation rate in general when compared with Canada. Telehomecare programs in Japan are all still in the experimental phase, which could be one of the reasons for the difficulties on getting an interview. On the other hand, although different provinces have different statuses, telehomecare programs have been carrying out for years in general. As a whole, Japan is still quite reserved in implementing this new intervention into the health care system, whereas Canada is more proactive. Interviews were recorded with voice recorder with their consent in an anonymous form. Further interview material organization and analysis of the interview data in detail is required.