



3<sup>rd</sup> Vanuatu Health Research Symposium  
26-28 October 2022  
Luganville, Santo, Vanuatu

## Assessing the advantages and limitations of implementing telehealth in Vanuatu

Rachel Takoar<sup>1</sup>, Dr Samaneh Madanian<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Health, Port Vila, Vanuatu. <sup>2</sup>Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand

### Abstract

Telehealth is one big topic that has not only gotten attention from many developing countries but also from developed countries. It is a way of providing healthcare services through the use of the internet. Telehealth has been seen to be very useful in places where there is no doctor, healthcare professional, or healthcare specialist. In places where there are no healthcare facilities, there is a growing need to use telehealth services to provide healthcare services to that underserved population. There is an increase in the growing need for quality and accessible healthcare services for all the people in Vanuatu, causing the government to develop strategies that can be implemented to meet those needs. Many people do not have good access to quality and accessible healthcare services. This forced people to live with minor health conditions that later developed into chronic diseases and death. People were mostly consulted by a physician at the very late stages of their health conditions, creating a difficult phase of recovery. The country's land mass with its many scattered islands has contributed to the challenges of accessing quality and accessible healthcare services. Telehealth can contribute to providing quality and accessible healthcare services to the population of Vanuatu. Studies on the country and its readiness to accept and implement telehealth are necessary. Therefore, as such, identifying the advantages and limitations of implementing telehealth in Vanuatu can be a good start. The methodology used in this research is the qualitative systematic review of the literature. Articles were collected for three groups of countries including developing countries, low-resource countries, and Pacific island countries. The advantages and limitations of telehealth implementation have been searched in these articles. These advantages and limitations are recommended advantages and limitations that can be used in Vanuatu for the implementation of telehealth.