1. INTRODUCTION

The Senior Citizens are an invaluable and an integral part of the Indian society. During the course of their lives, they make tremendous contribution to home, family, society and to the overall development of our nation and our communities. The youth of today stand to benefit immensely from their values and rich experience in different walks of life. Currently, India is experiencing speedy urbanization and rapid economic development. This has brought about a complete shift in the lifestyle of the people. This is due to the nuclear family system that is catching up in the major metros and also the migration of the younger generation to other cities in India and abroad for their careers. This leaves the senior citizens in India to fend for themselves. Some of them need special attention to health and others just need some help in their day-to-day life. Some of the senior citizens still have a lot of energy in them and would like to do something more for the society but do not know how and where to start. Some of them are not financially independent but do not know how to sustain themselves at this point in their life where they do not have the energy like they had in their youth. Some of them want access to information related senior citizens in particular. Yet many other just want to be connected with their peers.

Purpose of Research

India has witnessed a surge in the demand for services in the health care sector in the last decade which is due to the rise in middle-class population. The rapid growth of the health care technology in India has been due to the changing medical technology landscape, improving healthcare delivery, financing and changing patient profile. Higher standards of living and technological advances in medicine have led to a sharp increase in life expectancy. As a consequence longer-lived individuals will pose demands for increased aggregate healthcare services over a longer period of time. Additionally, the proportion of aged population is increasing, creating an upward pressure on demand for healthcare. It is expected that the population above 65 years will increase from 5% of the population in 2005 to 15% in 2030. Hence, it is vital to plan for the future of the senior citizens as it will benefit both the individual and country. Current population demographics state that nearly 90 million people in India are in the ranks of senior citizens. The Government of India is working to initiate in about a 100 selected districts, a National Programme for the Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE). The program seeks to provide an easy access to promotional, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services to the elderly through community based primary health care, build capacity of the medical and paramedical professionals as well as the care takers within the family, and to provide referral services to elderly patients through district hospitals and regional medical institutions. The focus of the study is to support the Government initiative so that it can reach out and serve a larger section of the senior citizen community. Sedentary lifestyle and lack of awareness has resulted in the increase in the incidence of Non-Communicable diseases (NCDs) among the senior citizens. So the prevention of these diseases can be achieved by educating and improving their awareness about these diseases and help them to prevent it by adopting a healthy lifestyle. Health is a product of overall emotional wellbeing; this can be
achieved if they are provided assistance in their day-to-day life by essential services, keeping them socially connected with their peers and also keeping them well informed with necessary information needed for their wellness. This will promote healthy aging and overall Wellness.

**Role of Information Technology for the Social Cause**

Information Technology (IT) has touched and changed the lives of the younger generation in India in many ways but IT still has its role to play in making a significant difference to the lives of the senior citizens of our country. This study is undertaken to address the objective of using technology to provide affordable health care and other essential services for senior citizens. This study will involve understanding the needs of the senior citizens in India and design a system by the innovative use of technology so that they are open to a world of services for their wellness management. The study will then focus on understanding how to design a system that will be accessible by virtually every senior citizen across the country. The research would be to understand and specify the functional and technical requirements, explore the technology options available and help in determining the best technology option for designing a cost effective and scalable system to cater to the senior citizens. The design proposed would facilitate the senior citizens sitting in the comfort of their home to get online consultation/advice with doctors, schedule appointments and get reminders for appointments and taking medicines. They can also be well informed about the nearest health care centers even if they move to a new locality. By the other services they can get assistance for domestic help and other day to day activities which many of them are unable to do due to their age. As many of the senior citizens are alone this system aims to give them services from authentic, well known and trust worthy sources for the benefit of the Senior citizens which can give them a feeling of security. There are many health related services available on the web, but not particularly to serve the senior citizens. The project will focus on health management specifically for the senior citizens which will be implemented so that data can be universally accessible anywhere, anytime. The interface would be web based and it would be designed so that the senior citizen can use the system without any formal training. The system can be extended to be hosted as a mobile application also if required.

IT solutions for social causes require to the address the need to accommodate the growing number of users globally. The cloud computing paradigm enables to deliver scalable IT solutions, it also helps the NGOs to optimize their operations more effectively, and deliver a broader array of services at much lower costs and thus make a greater impact on the communities they serve. With this background it is obvious that if we need to think of a solution for a social cause that is scalable, cost effective and web based, to make an impact on a mass scale then it should be hosted on the cloud as a service. Hence the study is to understand the needs of the senior citizens community and how can cloud computing technology be leveraged so that it can help to serve them better. The result of the study would be a cloud based design for Senior Citizens Wellness Management (SCWM).
Limitations and Scope of the Research

The focus of the study is to support the Government initiative so that it can reach out and serve a larger section of the senior citizen community. Hence, the scope of the research is limited to understanding the needs of the senior citizens community. It is being pursued with a social perspective to serve humanity by the innovative use of technology. The research is limited to the design for web based system interface and developing a prototype of the same. The design for other devices like mobile will not be covered. The details of launching and hosting the service on the cloud will be analyzed and specified in the report.