The future of AI in neonatal healthcare

AI is still a sci-fi for most of us in our daily routine. But so were mobiles 30 years down the line. It has become a reality now. Considering the growth speed of AI, it won't even take that long to become reality. Artificial Intelligence domain is still in its learning era. Healthcare sector in developed countries is rapidly changing with the use of AI in their setup. India still lags behind somewhat but considering the current research growth, it won't take too long to surpass all milestones.

The healthcare sector related to newborn baby care is known as neonatal healthcare. These babies are cared extensively in a special ward called "Neonatal Intensive Care Unit" abbreviated as NICU. The use of AI for these babies is challenging AI researchers due to the available opportunities.

AI can transform the way today's hospitals run. From registering the new patients to generating discharge summaries, all processes can be automated by using AI technology. The AI can help doctors to scrutinize high risk patients based on the medical data. For example, if a baby is born and admitted to NICU, based on the baby's birth parameters it will be easy to put it into high, low or moderate risk category. Further, AI algorithms can even predict their survival chance and diagnose the underlying reasons.

This is still the peak of the iceberg. A lot of research can be done in this sector thereby improving the quality of healthcare. There are a few start-ups in India working in this sector like i-NICU.

The first thing to be implemented in India for use of AI is taking doctor notes digitally. If all the readings are noted electronically, then huge data will be generated. This will allow the medical research community to use it for the betterment of society.

Finally, to conclude, AI has untapped potential in neonatal healthcare.

-**Madhura Ranade**