

Impact of COVID-19 on Ambulance Sales in India

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Abstract: New coronavirus (COVID-19) is a newly emerging and highly infectious form of typical pneumonia with a high rate of transmission. The COVID-19 pneumonia has spread to 147 countries and areas as of Mar.16th 2020, which has tremendous impact on the global public health. It is well known that, in China, the pandemic has been contained effectively with a series of emergency measures. It is necessary to share the existing experience of China in the fight against the pandemic to the world. Especially, during the process of prevention and containment of the pandemic, ambulances play an important role in transporting infectious patients.

Keywords: Ambulance, COVID-19, sales, commercial vehicle.

1. Introduction

The rise in Covid-19 cases in the country has also led to a sharp rise in demand for ambulances. For example, Delhi-based healthcare startup Medulance says it has witnessed a 3x surge in demand for its ambulance service amid the ongoing pandemic. The end-to-end emergency response service provider, which was founded in 2017, recorded a jump of 350,000 new subscribers on its platform after the Covid-19 outbreak in India, it said on Monday. The company attributed the uptick in demand to the ease of booking, tracking, timely diagnosis by its emergency services, and a dedicated helpline number.

The global ambulance market was expected to grow at a CAGR of 1.1% from 2019 to 2026 however the sudden outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has augmented the growth of 1.2% post COVID that is a 34.8 billion by 2027. The ambulance services market was valued at USD 29,773.49 million in 2020, and it is estimated to reach USD 47,081.90 million by 2026, registering a CAGR of around 8.01% during the forecast period, 2021-2026.

The COVID-19 outbreak had a positive impact on the ambulance services market. The growing demand for ambulance services to provide emergency care services to COVID-19 patients during the epidemic is driving the expansion of the market. The market is expected to continue its growth even if the crisis has stabilized.

The ambulance services market is likely to show a sharp rise due to the new ambulance service providers globally, the increasing number of accidents, the introduction of the latest ambulances, and the huge increase in hospitals due to the epidemic.

For Example in June 2020 Mahindra has announced the

launch of Its BS6 Supro ambulance which will be equipped with foldable stretcher cum trolley, medical kit box ,fire extinguisher, provisions for oxygen cylinder. An announcement system and internal lighting, on 6th July 2020 Tata Sons donated 20 Ambulances to BMC,15th Sept. 2020 Tamilnadu Government Passes into Service Total 500 Traveler Ambulances, Tata Motors Delivers 51 Winger ambulances to Zilla Parishad Pune, on 2nd October 2020 on the 151st Gandhi Jayanti India Gifts 41 Ambulances to Nepal,1st Jan 2021 Government of Orissa flagged of 100 force traveler ambulances, 23rd Feb. Assam Government Pressed 100 Force traveler in to service. 28th March Tata Motors Presents New Magic Express Ambulance According to AIS 215 Norms,11th June 21 Tata Motors Delivers 25 Ambulance to Gujrat Health Department.

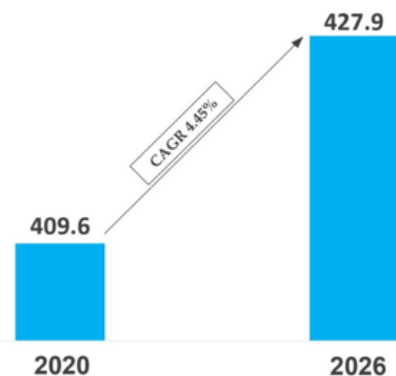


Fig. 1. Ambulance sales

Technological advancements in the field of EMS that can prove to be a game-changer.

A. GPS-enabled ambulances with cameras

This is almost a decade old technology but still far from being implemented in ambulance services in India for real time monitoring of ambulances. GPS enabled ambulances with cameras and portable ECG machines inside can relay critical information to doctors and emergency rooms prior to the patient reaching the hospital. It is stated that each minute of delay in starting emergency treatment reduces survival chances by 7-10%. Hence, another very important feature that digitization has enabled is that ambulances can be allocated to the patient from the closest possible location making the entire process quicker, traceable and trackable. Further, it helps in sharing

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Information with all the stakeholders for a comprehensive emergency medical service:

- Faster response and delivery time for the ambulances.
- Drivers have information about patient location, condition and contact details.
- Paramedic is well informed and prepared about the condition of the patient and prepares accordingly.
- Patients and their relatives can check the location of ambulances along with the information of drivers and paramedics.

B. Predictive Analytics Algorithm

Predictive analytics algorithms can be used to accelerate and manage patient flows more effectively. The Introduction of such a data-driven solution enables the monitoring of hospital admission and discharges, notifying on-ground paramedics on availability of beds and connecting to EMS systems while Emergency Department (ED) staff, physicians and healthcare organizations can decrease delay rates and improve health outcomes.

Predictive analytics also helps in the effective placement of ambulances in certain locations based on historical data. This minimizes ambulance dispatch and response time and enables hospitals to manage their resources smartly, reduce the wait & admission time, and increase pre-noon discharges.

C. Connected Database Management System for Health Records

An Integrated and connected system that allows EMS to share historical medical records of the patient with ED can go a long way in saving someone's life. It would enable the ED staff to make informed decisions and achieve good health outcomes.

Currently, the ambulance and paramedic crew have no direct

or easy access to patient records so they essentially have very limited understanding of what a patient tells them about their health condition. In a country like India especially, where paramedic staff training is not standardized, lack of information can further affect the way any diagnosis is done. In some cases, where the paramedic staff come in Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances and are equipped to take action, a lot depends on the patient's past medical history. A connected database management system will help in the right diagnosis of the patient.

In a country like India, technology can play a massive role in improving the way EMS is delivered to the masses. The sheer volume of emergency cases seen on a daily basis strongly suggests that innovation in this field is the need of the hour. While gradual steps are being taken to overcome the pre-existing hurdles, technology can accelerate the process. It has the power to save innumerable lives and also create a sustainable and effective framework for the future generations.

2. Conclusion

This paper presented an overview impact of COVID-19 on ambulance sales in India.

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