

Health systems: Resilience, equity, innovation.

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Introduction

Health policy and system research plays a vital role in understanding and improving healthcare delivery worldwide. Recent scholarship explores diverse aspects of health systems, from crisis response to strategic development and governance. For instance, a scoping review extensively examines how health policies and systems in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic, pinpointing various responses such as changes in governance, financial adjustments, innovations in service delivery, and adaptations of the health workforce. This analysis highlights both the difficulties encountered and the opportunities available for future pandemic readiness and strengthening health systems in settings with limited resources [1].

In parallel, another systematic review delves into various policy strategies aimed at lessening health inequities across different environments. This work classifies interventions into structural, intermediary, and individual levels, evaluating their effectiveness and implementation challenges. The findings stress the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration and comprehensive policy frameworks to achieve lasting reductions in health disparities [2]. The concept of health system resilience is also a critical area of focus, with a scoping review mapping its various definitions, theoretical foundations, and empirical applications in academic literature. It identifies key attributes like adaptability, absorptive capacity, and transformative capacity, offering a conceptual framework for developing policies and management practices designed to fortify health systems against disruptive events [4].

The practical application of digital solutions in healthcare is gaining prominence. A scoping review and thematic analysis investigates the development and implementation of digital health strategies, pinpointing key success factors and common challenges. These include issues like interoperability, data privacy concerns, the need for workforce training, and the importance of robust governance structures. This research provides valuable insights for policymakers and health managers aiming to integrate digital solutions effectively into healthcare systems [3]. Furthermore, health policy's role in advancing value-based healthcare delivery is explored, identifying policy levers such as payment reform, performance measurement, and regulatory frameworks that foster patient-centered care

and enhanced health outcomes while controlling costs. This discussion offers strategic implications for health organizations and policymakers striving to optimize healthcare value [5].

Managing the health workforce during crises, such as pandemics or natural disasters, presents unique challenges. A scoping review identifies key issues like rapid deployment, equitable distribution, mental health support, and training requirements, alongside strategies used to alleviate these problems. These findings provide crucial insights for policymakers and health system managers in formulating strong crisis preparedness plans [6]. Beyond crisis, the broader aspects of health system governance are explored, particularly in the context of achieving universal health coverage (UHC). One article draws lessons from diverse global experiences, highlighting common challenges in accountability, transparency, and participation, while showcasing innovative policy and management strategies that have reinforced governance structures to improve health service delivery and equity [7]. Concurrently, another scoping review examines various healthcare financing strategies and their implications for achieving UHC. It scrutinizes different funding mechanisms, including taxation, social health insurance, and out-of-pocket payments, assessing their equity and efficiency. This review provides policy guidance for designing sustainable and inclusive financing models to expand access to healthcare services [8].

Engaging patients and the public in health system governance is also a key area of focus. A scoping review identifies policy and organizational strategies designed to promote meaningful engagement, such as co-designing services, establishing patient advisory councils, and conducting public consultations. This work underscores the potential of these approaches to improve service quality, accountability, and legitimacy, offering practical insights for health managers and policymakers seeking more inclusive decision-making processes [9]. Finally, leadership and management within healthcare present global challenges and potential solutions. An article addresses issues like navigating complex organizational structures, fostering innovation, managing diverse workforces, and adapting to rapid policy and technological changes. The authors emphasize the critical role of effective leadership in cultivating a positive organizational culture and achieving strategic health objectives [10]. Collectively, these studies offer a comprehensive

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overview of the current landscape of health policy and systems research, identifying both persistent challenges and promising avenues for innovation and improvement across various domains.

Conclusion

This collection of research articles offers a comprehensive overview of current challenges and innovations in health policy and systems. The papers explore how health systems respond to crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries, identifying critical adaptations in governance, financing, and workforce management. They also delve into foundational concepts such as health system resilience, outlining key attributes like adaptability and transformative capacity to withstand shocks. A significant focus is placed on policy interventions aimed at reducing health inequities through structural and multi-sectoral approaches, alongside strategies for fostering value-based healthcare through payment reform and performance measurement. The role of digital health strategies is also highlighted, examining implementation challenges like interoperability and data privacy, alongside the importance of robust governance. Furthermore, the articles discuss critical aspects of health system governance for universal health coverage, patient and public engagement, and various healthcare financing strategies to ensure equitable access. Finally, the collection addresses global perspectives on leadership and management in healthcare, emphasizing the need for effective guidance in navigating complex structures, fostering innovation, and adapting to rapid changes. Overall, these studies provide vital insights for policymakers, health managers, and researchers working to build more resilient, equitable, and efficient health systems globally.

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