

Review of: "Strengthening Healthcare in Bangladesh: Challenges and Pathways to Equity and Quality"

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The article is a general listing of failings of the Bangladesh Health Systems. For the paper to add value, it should have attempted to analyse the causes. The solutions proposed also do not relate to such analysis of causative factors. To illustrate: The issue of health worker shortage in rural areas is a common problem in all health systems. The paper does not say if this is because the approved posts are fewer in rural areas (then it is a political economy allocation issue), due to poor recruitment practices, due to lack of sufficient incentives, etc. The solution proposed is that there should be greater availability of qualified health workers. But there is no evidence that adding to the number of health workers will address the issue of shortage of health workers in rural areas. But some other strategies - recruiting and training health workers from rural areas, increased monetary and non-monetary incentives, insisting on bonded obligations to serve in rural areas subsequent to a subsidised medical education - have worked in other areas. The paper is replete with several such general statements not backed by evidence or prior practice in other regions.