

Peer Review

Review of: "Evolution of Occupational Health: From Industrial Medicine to the Digital-Era"

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Evolution of Occupational Health: From Industrial Medicine to the Digital-Era" provides a timely and comprehensive analysis of the conceptual shifts in occupational health, tracing its trajectory from a narrow focus on industrial medicine to a holistic framework necessary for the 21st century. The authors successfully delineate critical historical phases, effectively linking them to scientific, legal, and socio-economic drivers, while compellingly arguing for a new paradigm to address the unique challenges posed by digitalization, the gig economy, and algorithmic management. The article's strength lies in its structured approach to identifying the limitations of existing WHO/ILO definitions in the face of fragmented employment relationships and AI-driven workplaces, though it could be strengthened by offering more concrete policy mechanisms for enforcing the proposed principles of digital fairness and universal access. Overall, this is a high-quality conceptual paper that makes a significant contribution to the discourse on worker well-being in an increasingly technology-mediated world. Additionally, while the breadth of references is commendable, the argument occasionally leans toward descriptive synthesis rather than analytical depth, and some sections could be strengthened by integrating comparative data or case studies to substantiate claims about global disparities in occupational health coverage. Platforms must publish plain-language explanations of how their algorithms function (e.g., "Your pay is calculated based on distance + demand + weather"). Instead of a single employer paying for health insurance, every platform a worker logs into pays a prorated hourly fee into a portable fund. The worker uses this fund to purchase health coverage, sick leave, or injury insurance that remains valid even if they switch apps or work part-time. To enhance the analytical depth of the article, you can incorporate the following specific case studies and real-world examples. These illustrate how the theoretical mechanisms discussed (digital fairness and universal access) have been tested in practice.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.