

Peer Review

Review of: "Influencing Variables of Health: Dimensions and Their Determinants – A Systematic Review"

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This systematic review undertakes an ambitious and conceptually rich task by attempting to operationalize health through a multilevel, multidimensional model grounded in measurement instruments across five domains (mental, physical, social, existential, and environmental). The integration of salutogenic and pathogenic perspectives into a structured multilevel framework represents a notable theoretical contribution, and the use of PRISMA-guided methodology enhances transparency. The extraction and categorization of 838 items across 47 instruments demonstrate substantial analytical effort, and the resulting model offers a potentially useful foundation for future development of a multidimensional health score.

However, several methodological and conceptual issues warrant consideration. First, although the review follows PRISMA principles, it was not prospectively registered, and the search was limited to Western contexts and instruments available up to October 2021, which may restrict comprehensiveness and generalizability. Second, the quality appraisal tool—while pragmatic—relies primarily on the quantity of validity and reliability studies rather than the magnitude or robustness of psychometric indices, which limits the precision of instrument quality classification. Third, the categorization of determinants into discrete dimensions, although necessary for model clarity, appears somewhat subjective in cases where constructs (e.g., financial status, housing, health literacy) plausibly span multiple dimensions. Clearer decision rules for classification would strengthen reproducibility. Additionally, the environmental and existential dimensions remain comparatively underdeveloped, raising questions about dimensional balance and construct equivalence across the model.

Overall, the study provides a valuable and structured attempt to synthesize health determinants into a holistic, multilevel model with potential utility for future instrument development. Strengthening

psychometric evaluation procedures, clarifying classification methodology, and pursuing empirical validation of the proposed model would substantially enhance its scientific robustness and translational relevance.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.