

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for inviting me to review this article. It provides a concise and helpful account of the healthcare challenges in Bangladesh.

I have a few clarifications and suggestions. They are listed in the order they appear in the article.

1. Both the abstract and introduction refer to 'international welfare organisations' – what do these refer to? Suggest using standard terminology.
2. The introduction could contain more background data to support the claims being made. For instance, what % of GDP and the budget goes to health? Have they declined over the years? And how comprehensive are the healthcare services available in the public sector?
3. The introduction refers to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG); suggest referencing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and introducing universal health coverage as a target of SDG 3.
4. Suggest replacing 'distribution of individuals' with 'distribution of the population' (introduction).
5. The solutions proposed could better align with the challenges identified. For instance, based on the challenges described, it seems unlikely that training and educating more healthcare workers would solve the problem. How could the government effectively address brain drain from rural to urban/abroad and the general maldistribution of healthcare workers?
6. There is an incomplete sentence in the text under the third challenge, "Strengthening governance and leaderships structures..." – should this be a separate bullet point?
7. Why would providing specialized services improve access for women? What is meant by specialized services here?
8. It is not clear how the two-pronged approach described will address the problem of corruption. The examples seem more relevant to accountability.
9. The conclusion refers to the Constitution, but there is no mention of the legal context of healthcare in the introduction. That the constitution provides for the right to medical care could be mentioned in the introduction rather than in the conclusion.
10. A few references seem dated. Could they be replaced with newer ones?