Disparities in Access to Healthcare
Causes and Proposed Solutions for Low-Income Countries

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Overview of Access Issues

- Universal barriers
- Approaches that haven’t worked
- Potential and proven solutions
Geography

- Mode of travel
- Terrain and climate
- Safety
- Travel costs
- Wages lost
Solutions

- Health center placement
- Regional infrastructure
Availability

• Lack of personnel
• Inaccurate diagnoses
• Supply lapses
• Funds diverted to hot topics
Solutions

- Utilize local healthcare workers
- Incentivize working in rural areas
- Establish reliable supply chains
Cost

- Informal payments
- Collateral costs
- Regressive cost burdens
- Cycle of poverty
Solutions

- Scale fees by income
- Fee exemptions
- Price subsidies
Acceptability

- Social status
- Education level
- Family size
- Cultural norms
Solutions

- Health education programs
- Sensitivity to culture
- Modernization
Quality

- Perceived quality trumps other variables
- Poor quality compounds issues
- Reason many approaches fail
Unsuccessful Measures

- One-dimensional
- Broad legislation
- Monitored short term
- Lack of government accountability
Solutions

- Multidimensional and tailored
- Prioritize beneficial legislation
- Build trust and educate
- Utilize local resources
References


Thank You

Dr. Jim Wright
Dr. Stephanie Ostrowski
Dr. Frank Bartol

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