A Three-Book Analysis of Global Health and Policy in Emerging Economies

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ABSTRACT

This book critique examines three seminal works on global health systems, policy, and equity within low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The reviewed publications are "Global Health: An Introduction to Current and Future Trends" by McCracken and Phillips, "Introduction to Global Health" by Jacobsen, and "Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: An Economic and Policy Perspective" by Smith and Hanson. Several critical themes are analyzed, including health disparities, the role of health systems, global health challenges, and the impact of sociobiological determinants on health outcomes. A comparative approach identifies common threads across the texts, particularly the need to strengthen health systems, address enduring health inequities, and implement policy reforms to mitigate the economic and resource constraints characteristic of LMICs. Each book offers a distinct perspective on global health. McCracken and Phillips provide a comprehensive examination of emerging health trends, Jacobsen emphasizes actionable solutions for global health challenges, Smith and Hanson focus on the economic and policy frameworks necessary for improving health systems in LMICs. The critique emphasizes the importance of multifaceted strategies to address the complex health issues facing these nations, with particular attention to the increasing prevalence of noncommunicable diseases. This thorough evaluation offers useful insights for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners committed to advancing global health systems and promoting health equity in resource-constrained contexts.

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1.INTRODUCTION

Global health focuses on improving health outcomes worldwide and addressing issues that span national borders. It combines diverse approaches from multiple disciplines to tackle complex health challenges with global relevance. Unlike international health, which targets specific countries, global health emphasizes collective action and broad solutions. It serves as a framework for research, collaboration, and policies aimed at improving health across nations (Chen, Li, Lucero-Prisno, Abdullah, Huang, Laurence, Liang, Ma, Mao, Ren, Wu, Wang, Wang, Wang, Yan, & Zou, 2020). A systematic review and thematic analysis of 1,363 global health publications examined 78 key articles and identified four main themes in its definition, including health improvement, ethics, governance, and historical evolution. Despite two decades of scholarly focus, a universally accepted definition remains elusive. The review suggests that future discussions should focus on who defines global health and the underlying motivations behind these definitions (Salm, Ali, Minihane, & Conrad, 2021).

Three outstanding books provide valuable insights into various aspects of global health systems, policies, and management practices. "Global Health: An Introduction to Current and Future Trends" by Kevin McCracken and David R. Phillips explores emerging health challenges, trends in health care delivery, and global responses to health issues. The book examines social determinants of health and addresses critical topics such as health inequality, epidemics, and health system strengthening, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). It offers valuable perspectives on international health management, drawing attention to the practicalities of managing health care systems within a global health framework (McCracken & Phillips, 2017). Kathryn H. Jacobsen's "Introduction to Global Health" provides an accessible overview of major global health issues, emphasizing the intersection of international health management and policy. The book covers topics such as infectious diseases, health systems, nutrition, environmental health, and health equity, offering practical actionable strategies for addressing health disparities and improving global health systems. With its focus on solutions, this work serves as a valuable resource for those exploring international health policy (Jacobsen, 2007). Richard D. Smith and Kara Hanson "Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: An Economic and Policy Perspective" offers critical insights into the management and policy challenges of health care systems in resource-constrained settings. It emphasizes the economic and policy approaches required to improve health care delivery, focusing on cost-effective solutions and policy design that can optimize the effectiveness of international health systems in LMICs (Smith & Hanson, 2012). These works together offer a comprehensive perspective on the evolving field of health care provision, with particular emphasis on health management worldwide. They provide critical insights into the complex interplay between health systems, policy, and management practices across diverse contexts. From defining global health and addressing key transnational health challenges to offering practical solutions for health system management in LMICs, these works serve as valuable resources for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners seeking to understand and improve the global health landscape [Figure 1].



Figure 1. The anterior covers of books, "Global Health: An Introduction to Current and Future Trends" by Kevin McCracken and David R. Phillips, "Introduction to Global Health" by Kathryn H. Jacobsen, "Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: An Economic and Policy Perspective" by Richard D. Smith and Kara Hanson.

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

This article employs a comparative analysis approach to review and critique three influential books in the field of global health systems, policy, and equity in LMICs. The selected works are as follows:

1. McCracken, K. W., & Phillips, D. R. (2017). "Global Health: An Introduction to Current and Future Trends" (2nd ed.). Routledge.
2. Jacobsen, K. H. (2007). "Introduction to Global Health" (1st ed.). Jones and Bartlett Publishers.
3. Smith, R. D., & Hanson, K. (2012). "Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: An Economic and Policy Perspective." Oxford University Press.

The aim is to provide an in-depth comparison of these texts, analyzing their contributions to the understanding of health systems and policies in LMICs, the challenges of health disparities, and the role of equity in global health management.

2.1. *Selection criteria*

The three books were selected based on their focus on key themes in global health, such as the intersection of health systems, economics, and policy in LMICs, and their approach to addressing health disparities and

inequalities. Each book provides a distinct perspective, ranging from broad overviews of global health issues to specialized insights into the economic and policy aspects of health systems in resource-limited settings.

McCracken and Phillips (2017) offer a comprehensive overview of global health trends, with a focus on future challenges, making it valuable for understanding the long-term trajectory of health issues in LMICs. Jacobsen (2007) provides a foundational introduction to global health, emphasizing essential concepts and methodologies that help frame health disparities in a broader context. Smith and Hanson (2012) tackle the economic and policy aspects in depth, providing specific recommendations for health system strengthening in LMICs.

The selection of these works provides a balanced critique of both theoretical and practical frameworks for improving health outcomes in LMICs, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of global health challenges.

2.2. *Analytical framework*

The analysis of the books is based on identifying and comparing key themes relevant to global health systems. The thematic categories used for analysis include health disparities and inequalities, the role of health systems in global health, global health challenges and solutions, social and biological factors, and a focus on LMICs in health.

2.3. *Methodology and the application of analytical methods to each book*

The methodology used in this article is qualitative, involving content analysis and thematic comparison. Each book was read thoroughly to extract key insights, which were then categorized into the thematic sections mentioned above. This in-depth reading allowed for a detailed extraction of the authors' perspectives on global health, focusing specifically on how health systems are designed, financed, and managed in LMICs.

The analysis was performed by first summarizing each book's main arguments and perspectives on these themes. The books were subsequently compared side-by-side to match commonalities and compare differences in their approaches, providing a detailed understanding of global health challenges from multiple disciplinary viewpoints. To provide more clarity, each thematic section was analyzed with a dual approach. Thematic sections, such as health disparities, were analyzed by summarizing core arguments and directly comparing the authors' perspectives. An illustrative example can be found in the discourse by McCracken and Phillips, in which they compare the challenges of international health aid being contrasted with Jacobsen's focus on poverty-driven inequities. Smith and Hanson's economic and policy-based approach to health system financing was compared with the other books' more socially-focused views.

Secondary sources, including academic journals, policy reports, and relevant literature, were consulted to validate arguments, support the critique, and provide context for the themes explored in the books, offering a comprehensive understanding of global health, policy, and equity challenges.

2.4. *Limitations*

This comparative analysis offers valuable insights into the contributions of each book, yet future research is suggested to extend this critique by incorporating additional works, thereby enriching the scope and depth of the analysis. The selected volumes retain considerable relevance to ongoing discussions concerning health system strengthening and health equity in LMICs. However, as the field of international health sciences and management continues to evolve, particularly in the context of health system reform and equity initiatives, the inclusion of additional works would not only enhance the breadth of scholarly engagement but also ensure a more comprehensive understanding of emerging trends and challenges. Given that this is a rapidly expanding area of international policy and research, ongoing updates are essential to maintain a global perspective that reflects the dynamic nature of the field.

3. COMMON THEMES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE THREE BOOKS ON GLOBAL HEALTH

The three books under comparison, "Global Health: An Introduction to Current and Future Trends" by Kevin McCracken and David R. Phillips, "Introduction to Global Health" by Kathryn H. Jacobsen, and "Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: An Economic and Policy Perspective" by Richard D. Smith and Kara Hanson, offer diverse perspectives on global health while addressing some shared themes. Despite their distinct approaches, they all cover topics such as health inequalities, the importance of health systems, the role of policy and economics in addressing global health challenges.

3.1. *Health disparities and inequalities*

A central theme across all three books is the examination of health systems and global public health, focusing on health disparities, particularly in LMICs. McCracken and Phillips' "Global Health" explores how social determinants, such as poverty and education, shape health outcomes. They assert that "health inequalities are shaped by social, economic, and political forces," emphasizing the importance of addressing these broader systemic issues to improve global health. Jacobsen's "Introduction to Global Health" expands on this by discussing the impact of social and environmental factors on vulnerable groups,

such as women and children. Smith and Hanson's "Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries" focuses on how systemic challenges like inadequate health care infrastructure worsen health inequalities, with the poorest facing limited access to care. All three works call for policy interventions, equitable health care, and international cooperation to address these disparities (McCracken & Phillips, 2017; Jacobsen, 2007; Smith & Hanson, 2012).

In this category, the focus is on how each book addresses the root causes of health inequities, particularly in LMICs. McCracken and Phillips (2017) discuss health disparities in terms of access to quality care, often calling attention to the role of international aid and policy frameworks in mitigating these issues. Jacobsen (2007) emphasizes social determinants such as poverty, education, and gender inequality, offering examples of how these factors create unequal access to health services in LMICs.

An example from Smith and Hanson (2012) is their analysis of the economic burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in low-income countries. They suggest that the lack of financial resources to combat NCDs exacerbates health inequalities, thereby complicating efforts for equity and universal health coverage.

3.2. *Health systems and their role in global health*

The role of health systems is central in "Global Health: An Introduction to Current and Future Trends and Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries." McCracken and Phillips emphasize strengthening health systems to address global health challenges, such as epidemics and chronic diseases, noting that "strengthening health systems is an essential element of improving health outcomes globally." Jacobsen's "Introduction to Global Health" also discusses health systems but focuses on how they can reduce inequities and respond to health challenges, linking them to health policy and social determinants. "Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries," in contrast, provides an economic and policy perspective, addressing challenges like resource shortages and inefficiencies in LMICs, and advocating for cost-effective solutions and better management practices, stating that "effective policy solutions are needed to overcome the barriers posed by resource limitations" (McCracken & Phillips, 2017; Jacobsen, 2007; Smith & Hanson, 2011).

This theme explores how each author discusses the structure, functioning, and strengthening of health systems in low-resource settings. McCracken and Phillips (2017) emphasize the need for integrated health systems that prioritize primary care and community-based interventions in LMICs. They provide case studies from various countries, illustrating how community-driven health initiatives have been successful in improving health outcomes despite limited resources. The book covers global health concepts, including population health measurement, disease assessment, and determinants of health, examines the history and present of global health, focusing on subnational inequalities, age-related health transitions, and current challenges, and looks to the future, exploring health systems, environmental changes, geopolitics, and planning for global health. Jacobsen (2007) provides an in-depth discussion on the building blocks of health systems, such as governance, financing, and human resources. One example includes the challenge of retaining skilled healthcare professionals in LMICs, a critical issue for sustainable health systems. The chapters cover health inequalities, socioeconomic factors in disease, maternal and child health, special populations, infectious diseases, Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), malaria, tuberculosis, globalization, emerging diseases, global health priorities, World Health Organization's regions, key Constitution and Children's Rights articles, human rights, Millennium Development Goals, health interventions, nutrition, environmental health, climate impacts, global health actors, and childhood immunizations. Smith and Hanson (2012) focus on economic analyses, showing how the allocation of limited health funds influences policy decisions and impacts system effectiveness. They provide examples from countries such as India, where public-private partnerships have been implemented to address health financing gaps. This book covers the health system, including its institutions, financing, purchasing, provision, performance measurement, revenue collection, supply-side innovations, human resources, pharmaceuticals, and its global context, including trade, external financing, and social determinants, and addresses the system's response to global changes and the role of global health diplomacy in strengthening health systems.

3.3. *Global health challenges and solutions*

Each book addresses major global health challenges, including infectious diseases, malnutrition, and environmental risks, but with different emphases. McCracken and Phillips focus on emerging trends like the rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and globalization's impact on health, noting that "the transition from infectious to NCDs as a leading cause of mortality is a critical issue for global health." Jacobsen's "Introduction to Global Health" emphasizes the biological and social aspects of health challenges, advocating for solutions that integrate biomedical and social approaches, stating, "solutions to global health problems must integrate both biomedical and social approaches." Smith and Martin's work examines the economic and policy aspects, raising the issue of how economic constraints and inefficiencies hinder LMICs'

ability to address health challenges, and arguing that "economic tools can be used to optimize health resource allocation and improve access to essential services." While all three books address similar issues, McCracken and Phillips focus on emerging trends, Jacobsen on health interventions, and Smith and Hanson on economic strategies (McCracken & Phillips, 2017; Jacobsen, 2007; Smith & Hanson, 2012).

This theme reviews the major global health challenges, such as infectious diseases, NCDs, malnutrition, and the solutions proposed by the authors. McCracken and Phillips (2017) provide an extensive analysis of the ongoing burden of infectious diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS in LMICs, suggesting that international collaborations and funding initiatives have had mixed success in curbing these diseases. They also discuss how emerging health threats, such as antibiotic resistance, are adding complexity to global health strategies. Jacobsen (2007) offers a broader perspective on global health challenges, integrating insights from both developed and developing countries. The author discusses how infectious diseases, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, continue to pose a significant challenge, but also points to the rise of NCDs in rapidly urbanizing regions of LMICs as an emerging global health issue. Smith and Hanson (2012) focus heavily on the economic and policy dimensions of health challenges. They discuss, for example, the cost-effectiveness of various interventions for NCDs, proposing that LMICs could adopt "best-buy" policies that focus on affordable interventions like tobacco control and salt reduction to reduce the burden of chronic diseases.

3.4. *Social and biological factors in health*

A shared theme in the three books is the interplay between social and biological factors in shaping health outcomes. McCracken and Phillips comment that health outcomes are influenced not only by biological factors but also by social determinants like economic status, education, and access to health care, stating, "social and economic conditions are as important as biological factors in determining health outcomes." Jacobsen similarly stresses the role of socio-economic inequalities and the complex interactions between biological, social, and environmental factors, noting, "health is shaped by a combination of biological, behavioral, and environmental factors, all of which must be addressed to improve global health." Smith and Hanson focus on how social factors, such as poverty and poor living conditions, worsen health in LMICs, observing that "social factors such as poverty and lack of education exacerbate the challenges of providing effective health care in LMICs" (McCracken & Phillips, 2017; Jacobsen, 2007; Smith & Hanson, 2012).

This section assesses how each book addresses the intersection between social determinants of health, such as poverty, education, and gender, and biological factors influencing health outcomes. McCracken and Phillips (2017) incorporate the social determinants of health into their analysis by discussing the relationship between health and development, particularly the role of income inequality and gender disparities in shaping health outcomes in LMICs. Jacobsen (2007) explores these social determinants in greater detail, providing numerous examples to illustrate how poverty and education influence health behaviors and access to care. The focus is on how poor nutritional status and lack of education contribute to the prevalence of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis in rural communities. Smith and Hanson (2012) adopt a more economic perspective, linking social and biological factors to the costs of health interventions. They examine how inadequate access to nutrition or clean water increases the susceptibility to diseases and, in turn, places a financial strain on health systems that are already underfunded.

3.5. *Focus on low- and middle-income countries*

While all three books discuss health issues in LMICs, their focus varies in depth. McCracken and Phillips address global health trends with an emphasis on challenges faced by LMICs, such as the need for health system strengthening and better epidemic preparedness, offering a broad overview of global health issues while recognizing the specific difficulties of lower-income nations. Jacobsen refers to LMICs but focuses more on the health risks faced by vulnerable populations worldwide, providing a general overview of global health without probing into the particular needs of LMICs. In contrast, "Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries" is entirely dedicated to LMICs, offering an in-depth analysis of the economic and policy challenges, including health system management and necessary policy reforms to improve outcomes in resource-limited settings.

This thematic category assesses how thoroughly and specifically each book addresses health issues unique to LMICs, including policy, economic constraints, and health care management. McCracken and Phillips (2017) provide extensive discussions on the political and economic barriers that prevent effective health system reform in LMICs, using developing country examples to illustrate their points. Jacobsen (2007) emphasizes the importance of culturally tailored interventions in LMICs, giving specific examples of how health policies in regions like Southeast Asia differ based on cultural norms, local economic conditions, and public health priorities. Smith and Hanson (2012) focus on the economic constraints faced by LMICs, providing case studies of countries that have successfully navigated these constraints through

innovative health financing models such as micro-insurance schemes and donor-funded programs.

Table 1. A summary of the key themes and how each book addresses them, noting both commonalities and differences.

Theme	"Global Health: An Introduction to Current and Future Trends" (McCracken & Phillips, 2017)	"Introduction to Global Health" (Jacobsen, 2007)	Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (Smith & Hanson, 2011)
Health disparities and inequalities	Discusses the role of social determinants such as poverty, education, and access to clean water in shaping health disparities.	Focuses on the impact of social and environmental factors, especially for vulnerable groups.	Analyzes systemic challenges in LMICs like inadequate infrastructure and underfunding. Emphasizes the economic policies exacerbating health inequalities.
Health systems and their role	Stresses the importance of strengthening health systems to address global health challenges, particularly in resource-constrained settings.	Discusses the role of health systems but emphasizes the intersection with health policy and public health interventions.	Provides an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced by health systems in LMICs, focusing on resource shortages, inefficiencies, and political-economic factors.
Global health challenges and solutions	Focuses on emerging global health trends, including the rise of NCDs and globalization's impact.	Emphasizes the importance of health interventions, health education, and international cooperation in addressing global health challenges.	Addresses economic constraints in LMICs and how cost-effective solutions can optimize health systems.
Social and biological factors in health	Examines the interplay between social and biological factors, stressing the importance of addressing social determinants.	Acknowledges the complex interactions between biological, social, and environmental factors in health outcomes.	Focuses on how social factors like poverty and lack of education exacerbate health challenges in LMICs.
Focus on LMICs	Addresses global health trends with a special focus on the challenges faced by LMICs, especially health system strengthening.	Provides a general overview of global health, with some attention to the health risks in LMICs but less depth.	Entirely focused on LMICs, providing detailed analysis of the economic, policy, and health system challenges in these regions.

The three books share several common themes related to the challenges of health disparities, the importance of health systems, and the role of policy in addressing global health issues. However, they differ in their approaches and areas of emphasis. "Global Health: An Introduction to Current and Future Trends" by McCracken and Phillips focuses on global health trends, "Introduction to Global Health" by Jacobsen provides a broader educational overview of global health solutions, and "Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries" by Smith and Hanson takes a deep dive into the economic and policy challenges of health systems in LMICs. Together, these books offer a comprehensive understanding of global health from various perspectives, each contributing unique insights to the conversation [Table 1].

3.6. *Integrating approaches from three books for a comprehensive global health framework*

A more comprehensive analysis is presented to better illuminate the interconnections between the solutions and approaches proposed by each book, illustrating how they complement one another. The three works on global health present interconnected solutions to the health disparities faced by LMICs, each addressing distinct yet complementary aspects of the issue. One book demonstrates the significance of strengthening health systems through community-driven, primary care-based solutions, which can be effective even in resource-constrained settings. This approach aligns with another work's argument that integrating both biomedical and social strategies is critical to addressing the root causes of health inequities, particularly through targeted interventions for vulnerable populations. A third work introduces an economic perspective, discussing the constraints of health financing and proposing cost-effective policy solutions, such as public-private partnerships and micro-insurance schemes, to bridge gaps in healthcare access. These

approaches are interconnected in their advocacy for systemic reform. Whether through improved management practices, enhanced infrastructure, or more equitable financing, they aim to create sustainable and equitable health systems. The first work emphasizes the need for international cooperation and comprehensive policy frameworks to address broader socio-economic determinants, complementing the second work's focus on the social factors driving health inequalities. The economic insights of the third work underline the importance of implementing cost-effective, resource-efficient interventions, thus enhancing the feasibility and practicality of these solutions. These perspectives collectively provide a holistic framework for improving health systems by integrating population-based solutions, social and biomedical strategies, and addressing economic barriers. Such elements are key in reducing disparities and fostering long-term improvements in global health.

The specifics are discussed regarding how the books' health policies and economic frameworks further strengthen the arguments. The three books approach global health from different perspectives, focusing on health policies and economic frameworks in LMICs. McCracken and Phillips emphasize the role of SDs, such as poverty and education, in shaping health outcomes and argue for integrating health policies with broader social and economic policies. Jacobsen advocates for context-specific, integrated health interventions, particularly for vulnerable populations, and stresses the importance of addressing these issues within fragile health systems. Smith and Hanson propose economic models like Social Insurance and Universal Health Coverage to improve access to healthcare and address inefficiencies in LMICs. In terms of economic frameworks, McCracken and Phillips focus on resource allocation for preventive care and primary health care (PHC) to reduce long-term healthcare costs, while Jacobsen introduces scalable, cost-effective interventions and financing mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships. Smith and Hanson draw attention to the need for economic evaluation, cost-effectiveness, and sustainable financing to enhance health system efficiency. All three books discuss strengthening health systems, with McCracken and Phillips recommending investment in human resources, infrastructure, and PHC; Jacobsen advocating for integrated and flexible health systems to address diverse challenges; and Smith and Hanson emphasizing efficient resource use and global health partnerships. They address economic constraints and offer policy recommendations. McCracken and Phillips suggest prioritizing preventive care and securing international support, Jacobsen focuses on adaptable financing models like FA and HI, and Smith and Hanson stress the importance of resource management strategies and EG to support health systems.

3.7. *Comprehensive findings from the content analysis of the three books on global health*

Based on the content analysis conducted in this study, this section elaborates on the findings in a more detailed and comprehensive manner, demonstrating the scientific rigor of the research. The analysis reveals not only shared themes across these works but also significant distinctions in their approaches to key issues.

Health disparities and inequalities

A central theme in all three books is the health disparities in LMICs, shaped by social, economic, and political forces. McCracken and Phillips discuss the multifaceted nature of these inequalities, focusing on socio-economic and political determinants. They discuss how these forces contribute to ongoing disparities. Jacobsen takes a more specific approach, analyzing how gender and age, particularly for women and children, affect health outcomes. Smith and Hanson examine the systemic barriers in health care, such as under-resourced systems and economic constraints. All three texts call for strong policy interventions and international cooperation to address these disparities.

Health systems and their role in global health

The importance of health systems in addressing global health challenges is a key theme in both McCracken and Phillips' and Jacobsen's works. McCracken and Phillips discuss strengthening health systems in resource-constrained settings, with a focus on integrated systems and primary care for universal health coverage. Jacobsen expands the conversation, covering both health system strengthening and the role of policies in shaping health outcomes. Smith and Hanson approach the topic from an economic standpoint, analyzing challenges in LMICs related to resource shortages and inefficiencies, while suggesting cost-effective strategies to maximize impact. These approaches collectively stress the crucial role of health systems in improving global health outcomes, especially in resource-constrained settings.

Global health challenges and solutions

Each book examines the challenges from a broad perspective, emphasizing socio-economic, political, and environmental factors. McCracken and Phillips examine the rise of NCDs and the effects of globalization on health systems. Jacobsen presents a balanced view, combining biomedical and social approaches, arguing that solutions must target root causes rather than just symptoms. Smith and Hanson discuss economic constraints in LMICs and propose strategies for improving health systems with an emphasis on sustainability and efficiency. All three books underline the importance of international

collaboration, funding, and evidence-based policy reforms.

Social and biological factors in health

The three works explore global health challenges, focusing on socioeconomic, political, and environmental factors. McCracken and Phillips examine the impact of NCDs and globalization on health systems. Jacobsen integrates biomedical and social approaches, arguing that solutions must address root causes. Smith and Hanson consider economic constraints in LMICs and propose strategies for sustainable, efficient improvements in health systems. All three books advocate for international collaboration, funding, and evidence-based policy reforms to address these challenges.

Focus on low- and middle-income countries

While all three books provide valuable insights, their focus on LMICs differs in depth and scope. McCracken and Phillips offer a broad overview of global health issues, with an emphasis on LMIC challenges, such as the need for stronger health systems, but within a wider context. Jacobsen addresses global health risks more generally, focusing on vulnerable populations and trends, with less emphasis on LMICs. Smith and Hanson's work, by contrast, is dedicated to LMICs, offering an in-depth analysis of the economic and policy challenges unique to these countries, focusing on systemic issues like inadequate health management and the need for structural reforms.

Integration of approaches for a comprehensive global health framework

Despite differing emphases, all three works propose interconnected solutions for improving health outcomes in LMICs. McCracken and Phillips advocate for health system strengthening through community-based primary care, concentrating on the need for accessible, affordable health care in resource-poor settings. Jacobsen supports an integrated approach, combining biomedical and social solutions, arguing that addressing the root causes of health issues requires both medical interventions and social reforms. Smith and Hanson concentrate on economic strategies, advocating for cost-effective interventions and better resource allocation to improve health system efficiency in LMICs. The insights from these texts, taken together, offer a comprehensive and detailed framework for addressing global health disparities. They emphasize systemic reform, the importance of international collaboration, and the implementation of targeted, cost-effective interventions aimed at improving health outcomes on a global scale.

4. DISCUSSION

Mitigating NCDs in LMICs aims to focus not only on the theoretical approaches presented in the reviewed books but also on how these suggestions can be practically applied to bridge the gap between theory and practice. By focusing on actionable strategies, these final comments demonstrate how theoretical frameworks can be translated into concrete interventions to tackle the rising burden of NCDs in LMICs. The need to strengthen health systems, address social determinants like diet and tobacco use, and implement economic models such as social insurance to improve healthcare access is emphasized. Public-private partnerships, international cooperation, and aligning trade policies with health priorities are also emphasized. The integration of climate change considerations and the development of resilient health infrastructure are further discussed as crucial strategies to tackle emerging health risks. By applying these approaches, we aim to make a meaningful connection between theory and practice in combating the growing NCD burden in LMICs.

The growing prevalence of NCDs such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and obesity in LMICs demands urgent interventions targeting key risk factors like poor diet and tobacco use (Kirwan, 2009). This trend, driven by lifestyle factors like poor diet, tobacco use, and obesity, is compounded by socioeconomic challenges and limited health care access. Addressing this requires both broad public health strategies and targeted interventions for high-risk groups, with a focus on affordability and social justice in health care (McCracken & Phillips, 2017). The rise of NCDs in LMICs challenges global public health and economic growth. Health care costs strain vulnerable systems, hindering poverty reduction efforts. Strengthening health systems is critical to overcoming barriers like limited access to care and financial protection. Policy reform and public-private partnerships are crucial for reducing health inequalities and improving service delivery. Strategic interventions, including better financing, policy alignment, and international cooperation, are essential for achieving long-term health equity and economic stability (Mills, 2014). Globalization has complicated the health landscape by spreading both infectious and noninfectious diseases. This denotes the need for better coordination among international health organizations, improved data collection, and adaptable health systems capable of managing emerging challenges like chronic diseases, mental health issues, and social determinants of health (De Cock, Simone, Davison, & Slutsker, 2013). International trade policies have also worsened health by promoting harmful products like tobacco and alcohol. There is now a shift, albeit, towards health-conscious regulations, and aligning trade with global health priorities is key to mitigating negative health impacts. Health, especially in LMICs, is critical to global stability, as poor health can destabilize

economies and international relations. Low-cost interventions and international cooperation can improve global health outcomes and stability. Furthermore, climate change and conflict further threaten health, introducing new risks such as the spread of diseases and extreme weather events, disproportionately affecting the poorest nations (Kirwan, 2009). Armed conflicts disrupt health care systems, exacerbate public health crises by displacing populations, and restrict access to essential services. This draws attention to the need to integrate health into foreign policy to enhance both domestic and international security. Health systems in LMICs are under significant strain due to resource limitations, requiring urgent reforms to achieve universal health coverage. Financing models like general taxation and contributory insurance can help but must be tailored to each country's context, with the private sector playing a role where public capacity is limited (Mills, 2014). Health worker migration remains a challenge, making it essential to address shortages in health care workers to sustain improvements, particularly in maternal and child health and diseases like HIV/AIDS (Mills, 2014; Jacobsen, 2007). Emerging technologies, including telemedicine, mobile health solutions, and biomedical innovations, present opportunities to improve health care access in remote areas. Challenges such as affordability and intellectual property laws, nevertheless, continue to hinder access to essential medicines and health services in resource-constrained settings (Salihu & Azuine, 2020).

The three books reviewed offer complementary perspectives on the management of global health, with a particular focus on LMICs, where the burden of NCDs such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and obesity is growing rapidly. McCracken and Phillips' "Global Health: An Introduction to Current and Future Trends" emphasizes the urgent need for addressing the social determinants of health, including poor diet, tobacco use, and lack of access to care in LMICs. Their work centers on the critical role of strengthening health systems to tackle these emerging challenges, especially in low-resource settings where NCDs are contributing to both health and economic instability. Jacobsen's "Introduction to Global Health," similarly, emphasizes the importance of health equity and effective policy frameworks in responding to both infectious diseases and chronic conditions. Her focus on solutions and health system management aligns with the broader call for policy reform and international cooperation to improve health care access and reduce disparities, particularly in regions facing the double burden of disease. Smith and Martin's "Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: An Economic and Policy Perspective" further expands on the economic aspects of health management in LMICs, offering insights into cost-effective interventions, financing models, and the integration of public-private partnerships. Their work contributes significantly to understanding how economic and policy frameworks can address the rising costs of health care caused by NCDs, thus complementing the strategies proposed by McCracken, Phillips, and Jacobsen in strengthening health systems and promoting sustainable health care delivery in resource-constrained settings. These books, together, provide a comprehensive understanding of the multidimensional approach required to address the health challenges faced by LMICs, particularly in light of the growing prevalence of NCDs and the socioeconomic factors that exacerbate these issues (McCracken & Phillips, 2017; Jacobsen, 2007; Smith & Hanson, 2012).

5. CONCLUSIONS

Addressing global health challenges, particularly in LMICs, requires a multifaceted approach that combines international collaboration, adaptive and sustainable health system reforms, targeted interventions for vulnerable populations, policies that address the social determinants of health. The works reviewed here provide a comprehensive framework for understanding and tackling the challenges in global health, from the rising burden of NCDs to the impact of climate change and global trade policies. It is imperative to recognize that the integration of these findings not only advances our understanding of the subject at hand but also lays the foundation for future inquiries that will undoubtedly illuminate even deeper complexities, thereby contributing to the ongoing evolution of the field.

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Conflict of Interest:

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Ethical Approval:

No ethical board approval was required for the conduct of this research study. The methodology of this book review article does not include surveys, interviews, focus groups, observations, experiments, or any other comparable technique. No study participants, human subjects, or animal subjects were involved. This

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