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Economic Disparities and Healthcare

Due to differing conditions across the globe, health outcomes and the quality of healthcare can vary greatly between and within different communities. Differences in health education, infrastructure, cultural beliefs, availability of medicine and even access to healthy food and clean drinking water can lead to different treatments and outcomes of serious healthcare issues. Many of these disparities are closely interwoven with the factor of economic disparities between various regions, communities and healthcare systems.

Recent events highlight the effect that economic disparities can have on healthcare. The high death toll of the 25th April earthquake in Nepal has been exacerbated in part by an overstretched hospital infrastructure in the low-income country. In Volume V, Issue I of *The Journal of Global Health*, we discuss a variety of global health issues influenced by the common theme of economic disparity. A lack of access to antibiotics from private vendors, discussed in a paper on neonatal mortality in Nigeria, can worsen illnesses in poor households. One article explores the effects of socioeconomic disparities on health within a single town in India. A third article notes that lower- and middle-income countries have higher maternal mortality rates, partially due to childhood malnourishment and lack of access to antenatal or obstetric care. In each article of this issue, no matter the topic, economic disparities play a subtle or large role in the issues discussed.

Now finishing its fourth year of publication, JGH facilitates dialogue on interdisciplinary global health issues from a variety of academic, cultural and geographic perspectives. By publishing exemplary, student-led research on the subject of economic disparities and health as well as other problems faced by communities all over the world, we hope to shed light on these issues and encourage the next generation of health professionals and policy makers to take active steps towards resolving them. The archived issues of the *Journal of Global Health*, as well as episodes of our podcast, *What is Global Health?*, featuring interviews with a variety of academics, health professionals, and grassroots activists, can be found at www.ghjournal.org.

Anjali Doshi Taylor Gray

Editors-in-Chief



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