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Book Name:	Disease and Health: Research Developments
Manuscript Number:	Ms_BPR_3932
Title of the Manuscript:	Social Determination of Health in Healthcare Workers: Lessons and challenges post-pandemic in Ecuador
Type of the Article	Book chapter

PART 1: Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>-Yes</p> <p>1-Discuss the following statement: "Critical epidemiology overcomes the restrictive concept of classical epidemiology that focuses on the phenomenon of health-disease from "risk factors," emphasizing the impact of economic, social, and cultural patterns on health".</p> <p>2- Social determinants of health in the healthcare population were examined in this research along with their association with working conditions in a public hospital in Ecuador after the COVID-19 pandemic. How? Explain?</p> <p>3- We found that women constitute 73% of the healthcare workforce. Does gender play a role in the incidence rate?</p> <p>4- Discuss the following statement "This study challenges the prevailing and reductive model of exposure and risk factors operating independently and examines how workers' health is affected by adverse effects and deterioration in a dialectical process across public, private and individual dimensions."</p> <p>5- The SARS-CoV-2 outbreak, which began in late 2019, has caused an unprecedented health emergency that has had a major impact on health systems worldwide. Which regions are most affected by the infection and does it depend on the infrastructure of health centers or other factors? Mention them?</p> <p>6- Discuss the following statement: "Healthcare professionals have been under significantly greater pressure worldwide, making precarious working conditions worse and drawing attention to the lack of preparedness for an emergency of this magnitude. In Ecuador, the pandemic has had a significant impact on its health system."</p>	

[Review Form3](#)

	<p>7-. Health care workers in hospitals have had to deal with long working days, increased exposure to viruses, and increased physical and mental fatigue as in other countries. Are there other factors that you think have not been mentioned? Mention them?</p> <p>8- Amnesty International has firmly stated that “governments must be held accountable for the deaths of health workers and essential workers they have failed to protect from COVID-19” in response to these alarming statistics. How much do you agree with this statement?</p> <p>9- It has been common around the world to examine the relationship between work and health from a reductionist perspective. As a result, we have made the mistake of not considering other aspects of the social production of health care workers. What are these aspects and explain them?</p> <p>10- Discuss the following statement: “It is necessary to carry out a process of breaking the positivist thinking paradigm, focusing only on analyzing the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, from the perspective of classical and formal models, to analyze the dynamic and complex processes that generated this pandemic, noting with a critical eye that we have faced a serious historical problem, but one that encourages us to solve it with proactive and purposeful energy.”</p> <p>11- How is the phenomenon experienced by healthcare workers in SARS-CoV-2 analyzed from the perspective of critical epidemiology, which views phenomena as a convergence of parts and the characteristics of those parts, which in turn determine the behavior of the whole? Explain?</p> <p>12- Living conditions, gender, social class, race, and social relations within and outside work, are understood and presented from the general and unique dimensions of reality in a society in which healthcare workers live? How briefly explain?</p> <p>13- How is the critical epidemiology approach used in Latin America to study the social determinants of health in the healthcare community, taking into account working conditions and their effects during and after the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in Ecuador. Explain briefly?</p> <p>14- This cross-sectional study was conducted over 20 months (from April 2020 to December 2021) including 2,398 healthcare workers tested by RT-qPCR for COVID-19. Do you think this period of time is sufficient to conduct the study, and are the sample numbers sufficient and do</p>	
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[Review Form3](#)

	<p>they affect the results of the study in case of visiting or decreasing them?</p> <p>15- Why was the Chi-square test used to compare categorical variables between groups. A two-tailed p value < 0.05 was considered significant? Explain the reasons?</p> <p>16- Discuss the following statement: "This study constitutes an exploratory reflection of a qualitative nature based on critical epidemiology, whose main characteristics are to overcome the concepts of the old functional experimental framework of occupational medicine, where the concepts of "risk", "burden" and "harm" are launched towards a liberal thinking about the health problems of the healthcare community during the confrontation of the Covid-"</p> <p>17- The ages of the health professionals in the study ranged from 23 to 74 years. Was the family history of the girls taken into account in terms of chronic diseases, socio-economic status and environmental status? Explain?</p> <p>18- During the study, we found that 50% of all employees were infected with the virus and 20% of healthcare workers in the hospital were reinfected with COVID-19. The groups most affected by direct exposure were nursing assistants (55%) and nurses (61%). Why these percentages? Discuss?</p> <p>19- Discuss the following statement "Women accounted for 74% of infections, making them the most affected group. The most infected women who had direct contact with the patient were medical students (67%), nursing assistants (82%), and nursing groups (95%)."</p> <p>20- Low or indirect contact with nutrition, sterilization, radiology, laboratory, pharmacy, and administrative staff is important and the groups most affected by indirect exposure were sterilization staff (57%) and laboratory staff (58%). How would you explain it briefly?</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>21- Discuss the following statement: "A crucial point in the discussion for assessing the reality of health workers is the need to describe and examine individual and collective characteristics taking into account the context of gender, social inclusion, ethnicity and occupation."</p>	

[Review Form3](#)

	<p>22- Many questions have caught our attention in the wake of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, multiple extraction, human exploitation, environmental degradation, lack of ethical values, and the absence of public policies on health and safety at work? Briefly explain them?</p> <p>23- Are among the most important recommendations strict compliance with adequate rest periods, dining spaces that ensure social distancing, rest spaces for employees leaving high-biological risk areas (level 4), access to healthy food, and access to places of emotional relief? How do you explain them?</p> <p>24- Personal protective equipment (PPE) has been a vital component of healthcare operations, yet, in our nation, it has always been in critical stock. How did he explain this?</p> <p>25- During the pandemic, PPE has been a vital component of healthcare operations, yet, in our nation, it has always been in critical stock. Why did he explain this?</p> <p>26- Discuss the following statement: "Several authorities in the healthcare system have been involved in corruption scandals for the procurement of medical supplies, masks, gloves, face shields, and all biosecurity equipment necessary to work in biohazard areas."</p> <p>27- In this study conducted at Carlos Andrade Marin Hospital, we found that the group of nurses and nursing assistants had the highest rate of SARS-CoV-2 infection (597 cases), surpassing other direct exposure categories (medical professionals). Why did he explain this?</p> <p>28- Discuss the following statement: "Most of the infected nurses were those exposed to critical care areas, followed by nursing assistants, a working group that revealed a reality that may have gone unnoticed for a long time, but the pandemic revealed an urgent need to rethink workers' health beyond the classic approach to occupational risks."</p> <p>29- This recommendation was not followed in Ecuadorian hospitals. Given the institutional necessity, explain this?</p> <p>30- Discuss the following statement: "Hospital environments are often subject to work overload and emotional stress, with variations across different professional categories and functions. During epidemics, these processes have increased in frequency and intensity, leading to</p>	
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[Review Form3](#)

	<p>constant anxiety and a sense of insecurity."</p> <p>31- Why was it necessary to anticipate a high chance of absenteeism since professionals in all health sectors are more vulnerable to infection. This would involve a quarantine lasting about two weeks, with a long period of sick leave in the event of serious illness? And pump it?</p> <p>32- Discuss the following statement: "Although hospitals provide treatment for those who have lost their health, they are also workplaces with high expectations that have a significant impact on the lifestyles and health of the workers there. In addition to the emotional and psychological stressors they face daily, which often lead to feelings of dissatisfaction and frustration, the work environment itself – including tools, personal safety equipment, work spaces, and the availability of adequate supplies – also impacts healthy work processes (14)."</p>	
<p>Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p> <p>⋮</p>	<p>Yes, please add 3 modern references at 5 years</p>	

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<p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u>comments</p>	<p>33- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the health status of healthcare professionals around the world has demonstrated the growing need for a social, gender-based, and rights-based approach as guiding principles for state operations? Briefly explain this?</p> <p>34- Discuss the following statement "Health workers suffer from fatigue primarily as a result of their work schedules, night work, lack of adequate rest areas in their workplaces, lack of access to nutritious food, serious issues of drug abuse, and the persistence of a hierarchical gender relationship that often leads to physical, psychological and sexual abuse. In this regard, the lack of government regulations aimed at establishing unambiguous guarantees for health care professionals is essentially a serious shortcoming."</p> <p>35- Given its close connection with human nature, the relationship between health and work is very fluid. Explain?</p> <p>36- People responsible for caring other vulnerable people constantly suffer from physical, biological, emotional, psychological and social fatigue. Explain?</p> <p>37- Since workers, who constitute the basic rationale for the existence of this group, have been reduced to mere tools for the process of care service, this weakness has affected the entire administrative structure of safety and health at work How do you briefly explain it?</p> <p>38- Discuss the following statement: "According to the study, health workers experienced disadvantageous conditions, especially during the pandemic, which were the product of broader structural dynamics."</p> <p>39- It is necessary to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the well-being of health care workers as a result of structural, historical and social conditions. Why? Explain?</p> <p>40- Why cannot health workers' health be reduced to the absence of disease or the management of individual risks. Health is built on the interaction of political, economic, social,</p>	

Review Form3

	<p>cultural and labor factors. Explain?</p> <p>41- Discuss the following statement: “We must address the challenge of integrating the theoretical contributions of critical epidemiology in Latin America into the process of developing health policies for health care workers that consider class, gender, culture and ethnic relations as key categories of reflective analysis.”</p> <p>42 Discuss the following statement: “Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic support an emancipatory approach that integrates: active worker participation in decision-making; redesigning policies that ensure full workers’ rights, including access to decent work and health conditions; and implementing intervention strategies that take into account intersecting categories such as gender, class, and race.”</p>	
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PART 2:

	<u>Reviewer’s comment</u>	<u>Author’s comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</u>
<u>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</u>	<u>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</u>	

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