

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54432

Date: 21/10/2025

Title: The Price of Pain: Market Failures, Malpractice, and the Crisis of Trust in Healthcare

Recommendation:

Accept After Minor Rivision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	✓			
Techn. Quality	✓			
Clarity	✓			
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Mrs. Shreya Vaz

Date: 21/10/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This manuscript examines critical issues in modern healthcare systems through the lens of information asymmetry and market failures, presenting a comprehensive analysis of healthcare commercialization and its consequences across multiple healthcare systems. The paper addresses a significant topic that has gained particular relevance in the post-COVID era and provides valuable insights into healthcare economics and policy implications.

Detailed Reviewer's Report

This article is based comprises a brief contents.

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Research Context and Significance

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REVIEWER'S REPORT

The submitted manuscript tackles one of the most pressing challenges in contemporary healthcare – the erosion of trust between patients and providers due to information asymmetry and market failures. The research aligns with current trends in healthcare economics research, which increasingly focuses on the evaluation of healthcare systems, technological innovations, and policy interventions. The paper's multi-jurisdictional approach to examining healthcare failures provides valuable comparative insights that are essential for healthcare policy development.

Methodological Assessment

****Strengths:****

- The paper employs a solid theoretical framework based on Kenneth Arrow's seminal work on information asymmetry, providing strong foundations for the analysis
- The comparative case study approach across different healthcare systems (US, UK, India, China) offers comprehensive geographical coverage
- The integration of a personal case study from Jammu & Kashmir adds authenticity and real-world application to theoretical concepts

****Areas for Enhancement:****

- The methodology section lacks explicit detail about the systematic approach used for case selection and analysis
- The paper would benefit from more rigorous methodological framework description, particularly regarding how the case studies were selected and analyzed
- No mention of ethical considerations for the personal case study inclusion

****Literature Review Quality****

The literature review demonstrates good foundational knowledge with appropriate citations of seminal works in healthcare economics. However, several areas require strengthening:

- The review could benefit from more recent systematic reviews and meta-analyses in healthcare economics
- Missing discussion of contemporary technological solutions beyond brief mentions in emerging trends
- Limited engagement with recent peer-reviewed research on healthcare market failures published in the last two years

****Content Analysis****

****Theoretical Framework:****

The paper effectively uses information asymmetry theory as its central organizing principle. The identification of five key market failure features (information asymmetry, adverse selection, moral

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REVIEWER'S REPORT

hazard, supplier-induced demand, and lack of smart shopping) provides a comprehensive analytical framework.

****Case Studies:****

The international case studies are well-selected and relevant:

- US ACA and insulin pricing effectively illustrates pharmaceutical market failures
- India's Ayushman Bharat case provides valuable developing country perspective
- UK NHS post-COVID analysis is particularly timely and relevant
- China's telemedicine expansion offers insights into technological solutions

****Personal Case Study:****

The Jammu & Kashmir dental care case study is compelling and effectively illustrates theoretical concepts in practice. However, ethical considerations regarding patient confidentiality and informed consent for publication need explicit acknowledgment.

****Emerging Trends Analysis****

The section on emerging trends appropriately identifies key technological developments. However, this section could be strengthened by:

- More detailed analysis of how these technologies specifically address information asymmetry
- Discussion of data privacy and ethical considerations in digital health
- Integration with recent research on AI in healthcare diagnostics

****Policy Recommendations****

The policy recommendations are practical and well-grounded in the analysis. The five-point recommendation framework addresses:

- Regulatory strengthening
- Patient empowerment
- Smart insurance design
- Technology integration
- International cooperation

These recommendations align with contemporary healthcare policy research trends

****Writing and Presentation****

****Strengths:****

- Clear, accessible writing style appropriate for interdisciplinary audience
- Well-structured with logical flow from theoretical foundations to practical applications
- Effective use of examples to illustrate complex concepts

****Areas for Improvement:****

International Journal of Advanced Research

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- Some sections could benefit from more concise presentation
- Figure and table integration would enhance data presentation
- Reference formatting requires standardization according to journal guidelines

****Ethical Considerations****

The paper raises important ethical questions but lacks explicit discussion of:

- Ethical approval for the personal case study inclusion
- Anonymization procedures for the dental practice case
- Broader ethical implications of healthcare commercialization

****Major Recommendations for Revision****

1. ****Methodological Strengthening****: Provide explicit methodology section detailing case selection criteria and analytical approach
2. ****Literature Review Enhancement****: Incorporate more recent systematic reviews and meta-analyses, particularly from 2023-2024
3. ****Ethical Considerations****: Add explicit discussion of ethical considerations, particularly regarding the personal case study
4. ****Technology Integration****: Expand discussion of how emerging technologies specifically address information asymmetry challenges
5. ****Data Visualization****: Consider adding tables or figures to present comparative data more effectively

****Minor Revisions Needed****

- Standardize reference formatting throughout
- Correct minor grammatical inconsistencies
- Ensure consistent terminology usage
- Add word count and ensure compliance with journal requirements

****Assessment of Contribution to Field****

This manuscript makes valuable contributions to healthcare economics literature by:

- Providing comprehensive analysis of information asymmetry across multiple healthcare systems
- Offering practical policy recommendations based on theoretical analysis
- Integrating contemporary technological developments with traditional economic theory
- Presenting authentic case study evidence from underrepresented regions

Overall Recommendation

****ACCEPT WITH MAJOR REVISIONS****

The manuscript addresses a significant and timely topic in healthcare economics with solid theoretical foundations and practical relevance. While the core contribution is valuable, the paper

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requires substantial methodological strengthening, enhanced literature review, and explicit ethical considerations discussion before publication. The comparative approach and integration of emerging technologies make this a potentially impactful contribution to the healthcare economics literature.

The revisions requested are substantial but achievable and would significantly strengthen the manuscript's scholarly contribution and policy relevance. The author should address these concerns comprehensively in a revised submission with detailed response to reviewer comments.