

## Long abstract – Open section

### **EXPLOITATION OF WORK, RIGHTS AND HEALTH IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY**

*Edited by Marco Omizzolo*

#### *Inequalities, Covid-19, And Healthcare Access In Urban And Suburban Areas: An Initial Review*

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Widespread access to healthcare represents the application of a principle of equity. Unfortunately, it confronts the uneven distribution of population and healthcare facilities, cultural complexities, socio-economic and ethnic disparities, and inequalities in health and digital education. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated these limitations, revealing their most severe negative impact on ethnic minorities and socio-economically disadvantaged groups. Through a systematic literature review, this study aims to identify the determinants of limitations to healthcare access, categorizing them and proposing effective solutions to influence policy and future research in this field.

The methodology employed led to the selection of a sample of articles analyzed through grounded theory. Open coding, axial coding, and selective coding were used to identify the most relevant determinants of healthcare access limitations and group them into themes and subthemes as outlined by the theory.

The analysis identified four main themes: (1) socio-economic determinants: economically disadvantaged communities and those with less comprehensive insurance experience stronger barriers to access; (2) cultural determinants: communities with lower trust in the healthcare system, those facing more critical language barriers, and stronger discrimination encounter greater access issues; (3) spatial and infrastructural determinants: suburban and rural areas face greater challenges compared to more developed urban centers; (4) demographic determinants: older and less educated populations experience greater difficulties in accessing healthcare services.

Finally, the study proposes several policy and institutional recommendations to reduce inequalities in healthcare access.

These include promoting equitable health policies, addressing socio-economic disparities, improving digital health literacy, diversifying the healthcare workforce, and supporting community initiatives.

Furthermore, enhancing infrastructures, particularly transportation and digital connectivity, is essential to ensure broader access to healthcare services.

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