

Question: Would prioritizing “One Health” strategies over alternatives neglect other critical healthcare needs?

Side: Con-side

Claim: Prioritizing "One Health" strategies over alternatives enhances overall healthcare effectiveness by fostering integrated approaches that address multiple health challenges simultaneously.

What is one health? One Health is an integrated approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. It emphasizes that the health of people, animals, and ecosystems is linked, and that addressing health issues requires collaboration across multiple sectors.

Looks to improve health outcomes by considering factors such as:

- Zoonotic diseases
- Environmental impact on health
- And responsibilities of vet medicine, public health and environmental health in creating effective solutions

The sources highlight the economic benefits associated with the One Health approach, particularly in preventing disease outbreaks and reducing healthcare costs.

● **Reduced Disease Outbreaks:** One Health emphasizes a proactive approach to health by recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

- By addressing health threats at this interface, the likelihood of disease outbreaks, particularly zoonotic diseases, can be significantly reduced.
- This proactive approach can lead to substantial economic savings by mitigating the costs associated with disease management, treatment, and lost productivity.
- For instance, the sources mention the outbreaks of Ebola and monkeypox, which have imposed significant economic burdens globally.

● **Lower Healthcare Costs:** The sources suggest that the rising cost of healthcare is a burden on vulnerable populations. By preventing disease outbreaks through the One Health approach, the demand for healthcare services, particularly for expensive treatments and long-term care, can be reduced. This can lead to substantial cost savings for individuals, healthcare systems, and governments.

● **Sustainable Development:** The One Health framework aims to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by synergizing interconnected systems. This suggests that the approach can contribute to broader economic benefits beyond healthcare.

- For instance, promoting sustainable environmental practices can enhance agricultural productivity, improve food security, and support economic growth in rural communities.
- The sources also point out that the One Health approach, while not a universal solution, provides a valuable framework for addressing various factors affecting a country's health.
- This implies that the economic benefits of One Health can extend beyond direct healthcare savings to encompass broader economic and societal well-being.

Why is this important ?

- Diseases that turn to outbreaks can turn out to be very economically hurtful.
- For instance COVID 19
- Hurt the economy drastically
- Taking a one health approach can help look at diseases in a multifactorial approach which can help understand disease better as well as save us money long term.
- One Health's focus on the interconnectedness of these domains facilitates a proactive approach to health threats, potentially leading to substantial economic savings. By mitigating the costs tied to disease management, treatment, and lost productivity, One Health offers a financially smart strategy

Potential Question:

What specific critical healthcare needs do you think are at risk of being neglected by a focus on "One Health" strategies?

Citation

Kaswa R, Von Pressentin K, Nair A, Murphy S. One World, One Health: A growing need for an integrated global health approach. *S Afr Fam Pract* (2004). 2023 Feb 22;65(1):e1-e2. doi: 10.4102/safp.v65i1.5693. PMID: 36861906; PMCID: PMC9982480.

Teammates Perspectives

- Each of us took a different topic on our stance. For instance, Quinn talked about societal advantages of one health, and Addie talked about how One Health strategies positively impacted other areas of healthcare. Each of our topics address different aspects of how One Health is actually good for many different aspects of other healthcare groups including economically, societally, and in general. One Health does not just benefit one area of healthcare, but all different areas of healthcare which is what we will discuss in our debate.