Determinants of Healthcare Inequalities in Brazil: A Qualitative Approach

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Introduction
- Existence of inequality and lack of access to healthcare exists despite public healthcare system
- Many nuanced social determinants
- Work toward more equal healthcare access

Objective of Internship
Increase my exposure and knowledge to health inequalities that exist globally and develop my experience in working with human rights advocacy organizations.

Work profile
- IFF focuses on education, research, service in health of women, children and adolescents
- Researched the social determinants which factored into Brazilian healthcare inequality
- Collaborated with various health-focused nonprofit organizations

Reflection
- My discussions with various nonprofit organizations provided a new perspective for what social factors can affect health.
- By combining my knowledge for the different theories of intervention and my real-life experience talking to those constituents who are affected by these problems, I, along with my colleagues, were able to brainstorm new interventions and directions of research for lack of health access in underserved populations.
- I learned so much about public health during this internship, especially about the factors beyond simple socioeconomics that influence healthcare access.
- Taking classes which discussed the intersectionality in healthcare such as that to do with politics and religion allowed me to have a broader understanding of health climate in Brazil.

Looking ahead
- Reinforced my passion for working in women’s health.
- I am considering pursuing a Ph.D. in public health and bioethics.

Questions
- How will the change of political parties affect future healthcare legislation?
- How are the problems plaguing the Brazilian healthcare system paralleled in the US system?

Conclusion
Working in global environment comes with its challenges but is ultimately so fulfilling, especially knowing that the world is changing for the better.

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