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Addressing the Gap: The Importance of Mental Health Legislation and Policy

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The manuscript would benefit from a clearer organizational structure that delineates the main points more distinctly. Subheadings or bullet points could be used to break down the critical areas of focus (e.g., financing, human resources, policy development) to enhance readability and impact.

While the manuscript cites a range of studies, integrating more recent research (post-2021) could provide additional depth and relevance, particularly regarding the pandemic's ongoing impact on mental health care systems and policy adaptations.

The inclusion of specific examples or case studies where innovative mental health policies have been successfully implemented could offer practical insights and inspire similar actions in other contexts.

A brief section discussing common barriers to implementing the recommended policies and strategies for overcoming these obstacles could add value to the manuscript, making it more actionable for readers.

The manuscript mentions the importance of a rights-based approach to mental health legislation but could elaborate further on how this perspective can be operationalized in policy-making and legal frameworks.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The introduction sets the stage but could be enhanced by briefly mentioning the specific aspects of mental health legislation and policy that the letter will focus on, providing the reader with a clearer roadmap of the discussion.

Incorporating data or statistics on the impact of inadequate mental health legislation and policy (e.g., on healthcare systems, individuals with mental health conditions) could strengthen the argument by demonstrating the magnitude of the issue.

While the manuscript calls for comprehensive approaches, delineating a few key, actionable policy recommendations could make the article more useful for policymakers and stakeholders.

Given the global scope of the issue, expanding the discussion to include challenges and solutions in low- and middle-income countries could enhance the manuscript's relevance and applicability.

The manuscript advocates for community care as part of the solution but could provide a clearer definition of what this entails and examples of successful community care models.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.