



Institute of
Development Studies



View from Development Studies

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Three perspectives

- Health Systems
- Formal and informal health markets
- One Health: Livestock production and agricultural inputs

1. A health system perspective

- Conventional view of functions of a healthcare system according to key 'building blocks'
- Alternative conceptualisation of health systems as 'complex adaptive systems'
- Focus on resilience of the system, for e.g. institutional arrangements for regulation, or basic public health
- Extent of trust: belief that can health system provide safe and affordable drugs

2. Formal and informal health markets

- The concept of a single system can be limiting: plural health markets and heterogeneous therapeutic landscapes are a reality
- Formal vs Informal: distinction based on the extent of regulation and institutional recognition
- Complex health knowledge economy means multiple sources of information and advice a reality

Contexts of antibiotic supply and use

- Lack of access to diagnosis has encouraged the use of drugs to treat symptoms or even prevent disease
- People can obtain antibiotics in less organised markets eg. from informal providers or drug sellers
- Spread of markets for healthcare and drugs can outstrip the institutional arrangements
- Incentives can encourage high volumes of sale by suppliers of drugs

3. One Health: human-animal-environment interface

- Intensification of livestock production and effect on purchased inputs
- Disease/productivity trade-offs in context of livestock owners living in poverty
- Focus on supply chains for animal products, feed, and drugs

Issues for stewardship in human and animal health:

Is it possible to move towards sustainable and just use?

- Access from government or health markets seen as an entitlement in many settings: what is the political cost of regulation?
- How can measures to slow emergence of resistance include provision of quality antibiotics at affordable price?
- Lack of capacity to enforce regulations is a reality: what are the implications of 'informal' practices?

Thank you.