

SOCIO-CULTURAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

DR. MEELY PANDA
ASST.PROFESSOR,
COMMUNITY MEDICINE
HIMSR, JAMIA HAMDARD
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OUTLINE

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- FACTORS
- IMPORTANCE
- SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS AND HEALTH
- DEMOGRAPHY
- DEMOGRAPHY FACTORS AFFECTING HEALTH

WHAT???

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The *social environment* is, collectively, all of the things that humans have overlaid on top of our world: our personal and societal relationships, our institutions, our cultures, and our physical surroundings—all of the aspects and products of human activity and interaction.

IT INCLUDES

- immediate physical surroundings
 - social relationships
 - infrastructure
- industrial and occupational structure
 - labor markets
 - power relations
 - government
 - cultural practices
- beliefs and religious practices

SOCIO – CULTURAL FACTORS AND HEALTH

Variables include Socio-economic Status, race/ethnicity, gender and sex roles, immigration status and acculturation, poverty and deprivation, social networks and social support, and the psychosocial work environment,

in addition to aggregate characteristics of the social environments such as the distribution of income, social cohesion, social capital, and collective efficacy.

SES and Health

Socioeconomic differences in health are large, persistent, and widespread across different societies and for a diverse range of health outcomes.

They are measured by three different indicators, taken either separately or in combination: educational attainment, income, and occupational status.

Some scales used are: Modified Kuppuswamy scale for Urban areas, Uday Pareekh – Rural areas, B.G Prasad scales- for both urban and rural areas.

Education

- Education is usually assessed by the use of two standard questions that ask about the number of years of schooling completed and the educational credentials gained.
- The relationship between lower educational attainment and worse health outcomes occurs throughout the life course.

- Example:
 1. The pattern of association between maternal education and infant mortality has been described as a “gradient,” with higher mortality risk occurring with successively lower levels of educational attainment.
 2. A similar pattern of educational disparities is apparent for all racial/ ethnic groups, including African American, Hispanic, American Indian, and Asian/Pacific Islander infants.
 3. Steep educational gradients also are observed for children’s health (e.g., cigarette smoking, sedentary and obesity, elevated blood lead levels), health in midlife (e.g., mortality rates between the ages of 25 and 64), and at older ages.

INCOME

Survey-based questions inquiring about income must minimally specify the following components:

- (a) time frame—for example monthly, annually, or over a lifetime (in general, the shorter the time frame for the assessment of income, the greater the measurement error);
- (b) sources, such as wages and salary, self-employment income, rent, interest and dividends, pensions and social security, unemployment benefits, alimony and near-cash sources such as food stamps;
- (c) unit of measurement, that is, whether income is assessed for the individual or the household (with appropriate adjustments for household size in the latter case); and
- (d) whether it is gross or disposable income

Occupation

Occupational status, summarizes the levels of prestige, authority, power, and other resources that are associated with different positions in the labor market.

Occupational status has the advantage over income of being a more permanent marker of access to economic resources.

Social Networks, Social Support, and Health

Social networks are defined as the web of person-centered social ties.

- Its assessment includes the structural aspects of social relationships, such as size (the number of network members), density (the extent to which members are connected to one another), boundedness (the degree to which ties are based on group structures such as work and neighborhood), and homogeneity (the extent to which individuals are similar to one another).

Social support refers to the various types of assistance that people receive from their social networks and can be further differentiated into three types: instrumental, emotional, and informational support.

- *Instrumental support* refers to the tangible resources (such as cash loans, labor in kind) that people receive from their social networks,
- *Emotional support* includes less tangible (but equally important) forms of assistance that make people feel cared for and loved (such as sharing confidences, talking over problems).
- *Informational support* refers to the social support that people receive in the form of valuable information, such as advice about healthy diets or tips about a new cancer screening test.

HOUSING

- Where you live has a significant impact on your health.
- People who are continually exposed to poor living conditions have a higher risk of developing health problems.
- Conditions such as pests, mold, structural problems, and toxins in the home can all affect your health.
- Neighborhood conditions are an important part of housing, and can also affect your health.
- A neighborhood that is free from violence, crime, and pollution gives children and adults a safe place for physical activity.
- A thriving neighborhood also offers employment, transportation, and good schools.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- How easy it is for you to access health care is a big determinant of your health.
- If you have health insurance, you are more likely to visit your doctor on a regular basis.
- These trips can include screenings and preventive care that keep you from developing chronic disease.
- But not everyone has access to health insurance or easy access to care.
- Some people don't have transportation to go to the doctor. Some can't afford it, while others speak a different language.
- All of these things can prevent them from getting health care they need. Not being able to get health care can have a huge impact on your health.

OTHERS

- Access to nutritious foods.
- Access to clean water and working utilities.
- Early childhood social and physical environments.
- Ethnicity and culture.
- Family and other social support.
- Gender.
- Language and other communication capabilities.
- Occupation and job security.
- Sexual identification.
- Social status (how integrated or isolated you are from others).
- Social stressors, such as exposure to violence.
- Spiritual/religious .

DEMOGRAPHY

- Demography is the study of population structure and change. It is the study of the characteristics of populations – primarily age and sex – as well as births, deaths and migration.
- In other words, the patterns and trends of population change.
- However, many demographers now study the components of population change (fertility, mortality and migration) at an individual level, trying to understand their determinants and consequences.
- So demography also includes the study of relationships, households and families.

FACTORS FOR ASSESSMENT

1. Measures of Population Change

Population Change

Population Density

Annual Growth Rate

2. Components of Population Growth

Fertility

Mortality

Migration

RATES AND RATIOS

- Sex Ratio
- Dependency ratio
- Child Woman ratio
- Crude Birth and Death Rate
- General fertility Rate
- Infant Mortality Rate
- Maternal mortality rate

THANK

YOU