Socio-economic determinants of health

Sunet Jordaan
Outline

• Introduction
• Development
• Socio-economic determinants of health
• Actions
Introduction

• “Social determinants of health,” broadly speaking, refers to social, economic, and political resources and structures that influence health outcomes

• Based on the human rights approach for development
Development

• Various meanings for different people
• Economic growth, equal use of resources, technology, education, political freedom etc
• Development is about people making choices based on values about quality of life
• Goulet: life sustenance, esteem, freedom
• UNDP: human security
Development

• Measuring of development
• GNP/head
• Physical quality of life index
• Measure of economic welfare
• Purchasing power parity
• UN: Human Development Index
Social and economic determinants of health

- Various levels of determinants:
- Individual, household, community, national, international
- Focus of this module: community and national
- Others will be taken into account
Socio-economic determinants of health

• Inequality
• Poverty
• Access to education
• Gender
• Rural versus urban
• Globalisation and debt crisis
• Climate change and severe weather
Socio-economic determinants of health

• Complex social and political environments
• Impact on types of actions
• Constantly changing and dynamic environment
General socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions

Living and working conditions

Social and community networks

Individual lifestyle factors

Age, sex and constitutional factors

Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991
Inequality

Inequality

- Social hierarchies
- Social exclusion
- Income distribution
- Discrimination
- Ethnic conflict
- Racism
Poverty

- Poorest of the poor: worst health
- Causal effect of income on health status
- Absolute poverty versus relative poverty
- Impact on disease, infant mortality rates
- Combined impact of poverty and other factors
Education

• Links with literacy
• Early childhood Development
• Impact of female education
Gender

• Life expectancy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>78.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>76.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>80.8</td>
<td>75.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>50.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>47.1</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: http://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com

• Maternal education

• Gender roles
Rural versus urban

- Define rural versus urban
- Migration
- Access to health care more difficult in rural areas
- Urban: generally healthier...BUT
Rural versus urban

• WHO facts on urbanisation
• Slums
• Pollution
• Street children
• Child mortality
• Traffic
• Sanitation
• Spread of disease due to overcrowding
Globalisation and the debt crisis

- Interconnectedness and interdependence
- Flow of goods and service
- Health care workers (brain drain)
- Global agreements
- PEPFAR, Global Fund
- Role of large pharmaceuticals
- Travel and trade and the impact on disease
Climate change and severe weather

• Pollution
• Environmental degradation
• Extreme weather events and the impact on health
• E.g. Tsunami in Japan last year
Actions

- World Conference on the Social Determinants of Health, 19-21 October 2011
- Improved Primary Health Care service delivery
- Health System Strengthening
Next up....

Gender and Health

Is it hard to balance working and being my Mommy?

According to the Supreme Court, that’s a very sexist question.