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Research Paper Economics

Socio-economic and Cultural factors in health, health services and prevention: An over view

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ABSTRACT

Cultural and Socio-economic factors Indigenous people across the world experience more health related problems as compared to the population at large. So, this review article is broadly an attempt to highlight the important factors for indigenous peoples' health problems, and to recommend some suggestions to improve their health status. Standard database for instance, Plumbed, Medline, Goggle scholar, and Goggle book searches have been used to get the sources. Different key words, for example, indigenous people and health, socio-economic and cultural factors of indigenous health, history of Indian, peoples' health, This research paper shows that along with common place factors, Indian peoples' health is affected by some distinctive factors such as indignity, colonial and post-colonial experience, reality, lack of governments' recognition etc., which no indigenous people face to a much lesser degree. In addition, indigenous peoples around the world experience various health problems due to their varied socio-economic and cultural contexts. Finally, this paper recommends that the spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, cultural, economic, socio-cultural and environmental factors should be incorporated into the indigenous health agenda to improve their health status.

KEYWORDS: Health priorities, health facility environment, needs assessment, minority groups, social conditions, socioeconomic factors, health, discrimination, inequality.

Introduction

Indigenous people all over the world are historically subjugated, seceded and discriminated, which is explicitly and implicitly affecting their health status also. Studies reveal that indigenous/ethnic populations experience more health related problems and inequalities, as compared to their mainstream .consequences on their lives. In doing so, firstly this paper will focus on the background history of indigenous health. Secondly, the paper will discuss different factors, which are important in regard to access to health services and/or prevention for indigenous peoples as well as consequences of these factors in the contemporary world. Finally, the paper will sum up by suggesting some recommendations for the improvement of indigenous health status.

History of Indigenous Health

Notwithstanding the history of indigenous people is the history of battlefield indigenous people in the west faced even greater threat by diseases after European invasion. The historical writings and scientific research today argue that before European invasion most of the indigenous groups were able to control diseases and enjoyed higher levels of mental and

Factors Affecting Indigenous peoples' Health

Along with some common factors, indigenous peoples are suffering from particular factors that mainstream people never encounter, such as, indignity, colonial and post-colonial experience, reality, lack of governments' recognition and so on. In addition, indigenous people around the world experience various health problems due to their varied socioeconomic and cultural contexts. These intertwining factors will be discussed in the following section.

1. Geographic Location and Rural Lifestyles;

Large number of indigenous communities live in extremely remote locations, far from urban cities, formal labor markets, and commercial opportunities and such geographic location and rural environments directly affects some aspects of their health status. In New Zealand, access to safe drinking water is very poor in small rural communities where mostly Maori people live. In india infectious diseases are higher among Aboriginal people in rural and remote areas which are resulted from sub-standard water supplies, washing facilities and sanitation. dominant in remote areas, also experience a higher burden of lower birth weight and neonatal deaths than non-

2. Ethnical Identity

Ethnicity itself is one of the most significant predictors of poor health of indigenous people all over the world. Studies demonstrate that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Maori, Canadian Aboriginal people, and American Indian and Alaskan Native populations are all characterized by a higher burden of disease than the non-Indigenous peoples.

3. Dispossession and Dislocation from the Land Indigenous peoples are used to satisfy all of their needs from land. Their way of life is directly coupled with it. But in many cases their land is confiscated or dispossessed and dislocated by the governments, or sometimes bought for small amounts of money, consequently shrinking their land and food supply as we.

4. Housing

Housing is also important for good health. Study shows that on average, the indigenous household is larger than the non indigenous households . As a result, relatively large number of indigenous people is living in the same house compared to non-indigenous people. Study also states that inadequate and insufficient housing is a serious problem for aboriginal people Indian. Now highly exposed to infectious diseases such as peruses, meningitis, hepatitis, pneumonia, sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) and more recently HIV/AIDS

5. Level of Education

Level of education is strongly associated with health status all over the world regardless of race and ethnicity Low education and health status are both causes and effects of low economic status. However, indigenous education is traditionally discriminated against both in the occident and the orient. Indigenous children are not formally educated and their language and culture are not taken into account in education .

6. Income

Income affects health status of indigenous peoples directly and indirectly. Income disparities lead to marginalization, limiting access to education, employment, good housing and nutritious food. The Inuit discussion paper states that. Study shows that the indigenous family income is lower than the non-indigenous family income

7. Employment and Occupation

The employment rate of indigenous people is lower than the non-indigenous people (Altman 2003; Frolic et al. 2006). There are also marked occupational differences between indigenous and non-indigenous people. Indigenous people are classified as unskilled and belong at the bottom end of the occupational hierarchy which is partly a reflection of their low educational status (Altman 2003; Smith et al. 2008). In India, indigenous people are mostly involved in clerical or sales jobs rather than professional jobs. Considering at the continuity of employment, indigenous peoples are involved in irregular employment throughout the year than non-indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples are also occupied in seasonal employment

8. Environmental Factor

Albeit the Arctic is often assumed to be a pristine, unpolluted area, there are few industries, especially in Alaska and Canada, which may have a serious effect on the health status on indigenous peoples, particularly among the Inuit in the Arctic.

9. Lack of data

Last but not least, lack of data is another significant factor that affects

indigenous health submissively, unlike all other determinants that affect their health overtly and covertly. Since most of the cases of indigenous health status is unexplored, particularly in Asia and Africa, policies are not taken into account both nationally and internationally to improve their health Health, a study from Peru reports that so that many people "become ill and This way, the scandalous number of deaths as a consequence of hydrocarbon contamination cannot be made visible.

Recommendation for the Improvement of Indigenous Health

Indigenous people have some bitter experiences, due to colonization. They have some problems that cannot be solved overnight such as living in remote areas. However, most of the health problems, for example the ones related to socio-economic and cultural factors, can be solved relatively easily. Introducing the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health,. challenging issue as compared to non-indigenous people, holistic approach should be taken into account for the improvement of indigenous health which does not concur with many western models. This holistic approach is clearly embedded within the proposed Due to this holistic view of health, indigenous people need multidimensional approach to diminish their health problems by:

•Improving their socio-economic, cultural and political position;
•Providing community based and culturally appropriate health care services that reflects their values, beliefs and traditions.
•Strengthen their choice to professional care;
•Increasing awareness to health care seeking behavior;
•Developing indigenous health work force that has both professional and cultural competence; and
•Combination of traditional and modern medicine.

Conclusion

Analyzing above discussion, we come up with the conclusion that indigenous health problems are deep-rooted from colonial period to modern era. However, they were outstandingly free from all sorts of diseases before European invasion. It is also notable that during colonial period, indigenous people were torment mostly due to communicable diseases, which includes smallpox, tuberculosis, venereal diseases, yaws, measles whooping cough, typhoid fever and influenza. But in the modern age the pattern and types of diseases are diversified into a larger extent, for instance, as indigenous people are now suffering from cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, suicide, depression, diabetes and so on.

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