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A Review of Socioeconomic Determinants of Health Inequalities

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to review the research carried out on socioeconomic determinants of health inequalities. Various databases were searched for keywords ‘health inequalities’, ‘health inequalities + socioeconomic determinants’, ‘health inequalities + socioeconomic factors’, and ‘health inequalities + determinants’ etc. The search yielded 1819 papers and out of these 15 were selected for a review. The review found that it had been long established that socioeconomic factors were major determinants of health and mortality. Studies show that individuals belonging to socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds had poorer health. The findings from the studies reviewed show that many of the inequalities in health around the world were rooted in social factors. Social determinants were relevant to communicable and non-communicable diseases alike. Therefore, this had implications for policy makers as the health status was a concern for all policy makers, and not just those involved in health policy. Studies reveal that populations exposed to the greenest environments have the lowest levels of health inequality related to income deprivation. Physical environments promoting good health may be important to reduce socioeconomic health inequalities. Studies show that the extent of inequality in the society is often a consequence of explicit policies and public choice. Hence, by reducing income inequality, there is a prospect for better public health alongside greater social cohesiveness.

Keywords: Health Inequality, Socioeconomic Status, Review, Determinants

A Review of Technical and Vocational Education in India

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to review the research carried out on the status of technical and vocational education in India. Various databases were searched for keywords ‘vocational education + India’, ‘technical education + India’, and ‘technical and vocational education + India’. The search yielded 2451 papers and out of these 15 were selected for a review. Vocational Education and Training (VET) helps to bridge the gap between limited education and gainful employment. Studies show that it is difficult to make VET readily accessible to economically and educationally backward/challenged communities. The studies on technical and vocational education showed that there is a high rate of unemployment (11%) for Vocational Education and Training (VET) graduates in India in the age group 15-29 years. But this rate of unemployment is lower than that for general secondary graduates. Studies show that average daily wages for both regular and casual workers are higher for VET graduates. Studies have also shown that there has been a substantial increase in the number of Industrial Training Institutes in the last few decades. As more workforce is required at a lower level, more engineering diploma holders or Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) graduates are required in India. Hence, more polytechnics and ITIs (Institutes for Industrial Training) are being opened across the country. Various government ministries are also trying to provide vocational education courses through innovative institutions which have been especially created for this purpose.

Keywords: Vocational, Technical Education, India, Review

A Review of Domestic Violence in India

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to review the research carried out on the status of domestic violence in India. Various databases were searched for keywords ‘reporting domestic violence + India’, ‘domestic violence + India’, and ‘domestic abuse + India’. The search yielded 1984 papers and out of these 15 were selected for a review. India’s National Family Health Survey – III, carried out in 2005-06, found that a significant proportion (37.2%) of married women had been physically or sexually abused by their husbands at some point in their lives. Studies have highlighted the role of patriarchy in the name of ‘family values’ and ‘tradition’ in the perpetuation of domestic violence in India. Patriarchy has also played a role in the legal system surrounding domestic violence in the country. Studies show that male privilege as being a cause of perpetuation of the cycle of domestic violence in India. Implications of the studies for the policy planners include creating innovative approaches such as sensitizing men to the domestic violence crisis. Studies on women’s status and domestic violence in rural areas in India have indicated that the effects of woman’s status on her likelihood of experiencing domestic violence depends on the social realm within which the status operates.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, India, Review