



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Social Epidemiology and Public Health Development

Foundations of Social Epidemiology

Social justice

Semester 1

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Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding and knowledge of the various approaches to social epidemiology interventions and ways for monitoring epidemiological information of a population during the life course.
- Apply knowledge on the link between social environment and health for the development of needs assessments, considering the social determinants of health and impact of social factors on individual and public health.
- Communicate analysis and evaluation of outcomes of epidemiological studies and how these outcomes relate to social and cultural contexts, public health interventions and policies.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the various forms of health inequalities in the UK and globally, and critically compare and evaluate public health policies and interventions.

Module Summary

- The module aims overall to introduce students to the various approaches to interventions and ways for monitoring public health information related to health inequalities, social determinants of health, socio-economic and demographic characteristics of a population.
- To familiarise students with the core concepts of social epidemiology and public health development and to acquire the skills necessary to describe and interpret epidemiological information.

Aims of the Session

To understand

- The meaning of social justice
- Some examples of social justice
- Marginalisation
- Type of marginalisation
- Principles of social justice
- The term social injustice
- Diversity

What is social justice?



Social Justice

- Social Justice means **fairness in all ramifications**
- Social justice means that everyone's human rights are respected and protected.
- Everyone has equal opportunities.
- This doesn't guarantee that society will be perfect and everyone will always be happy.
- However, everyone will have a fighting chance at the life they want.
- They are not held back by things out of their control like obstacles or discrimination.

Social Justice

- Justice is the concept of fairness.
- Therefore ***Social justice*** is fairness as it manifests in the society.
- Social justice is a type of justice rooted in the idea that everyone should have equal rights, opportunity and treatment.

Social Justice

- **“Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities”.**
- Social justice encompasses economic justice.
- Social justice is justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.
- It is a concept holding that all people should have equal access to wealth, health, well-being, privileges, and opportunity.
- That is in healthcare, employment, housing, and more

Social Justice

- **Social justice** means the rights of everyone in the community are considered in a fair and equitable manner.
- It specifically targets the marginalised and disadvantaged groups in the society such as,
- Children, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disabilities, older people, women and young people.

Activity

Working independently research the term **marginalised/social exclusion**

Feedback your findings to the whole class

What is Marginalisation?



Marginalisation

- Marginalisation, also called social marginalisation, occurs when a person or groups of people are **less able** to do things or **access basic services** or opportunities in the society.
- It is also sometimes referred to as social exclusion.
- Many factors can lead to this denial of access to institutions and opportunities, including historical bias and lack of funding
(Schatz and Schiffer, 2008; LibertiesEU, 2021)

Marginalisation

- Marginalised people do not necessarily belong to one particular demographic:
- Marginalisation occurs due to ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, socioeconomic level, and age.
- Marginalised groups are often at a disadvantage when it comes to obtaining health care, decent education, and employment that would improve their well-being.

(LibertiesEU, 2021)

Marginalisation

Some question to think about in relation to marginalisation

- Are you able to send your kids to good schools, and are they free or affordable?
- If you become ill, is it easy for you to see a doctor and get treatment?
- Do you have the same chances as everyone else to get a job and build a career?
- Schools, access to healthcare, employment—these are all areas where people may not have equal opportunities, and this causes marginalisation.
- But marginalisation can also come from everyday inequalities, like whether you live in an area with good, safe roads or access to public transit, or if buildings are equipped for a disability you might have.

Social exclusion

- Social exclusion describes a situation where not everyone has equal access to the opportunities and services that allow them to lead a decent, happy life.
- This includes not being able to give input and have their voice heard on the rules of the society in which they live.
- The opportunities and services that are inaccessible are things like infrastructure – even basic things like electricity and running water – and services like public education, healthcare or the social welfare system.

Social exclusion

- Social exclusion refers to the blacked-out areas – communities that are not connected to the grid and cannot enjoy the same benefits and opportunities as everyone else.
- These communities are often referred to as ‘marginalised’, and ‘social marginalisation’ is another term used to describe social exclusion.

What are the types of Marginalisation?



Types of Marginalisation

Marginalisation puts people in powerless positions based on one or several dimensions of exclusion:

- **Economic marginalisation:** Economic marginalisation refers to disparities in accrual of wealth or getting a job. For example, many forms of employment marginalise racial minorities due to harmful stereotypes about what types of people make good managers or workers.
- **Political marginalisation:** Politically marginalised communities struggle to participate in parts of the public process, like voting or gaining access to their political representatives. For example prevented some citizen from voting are examples of political marginalisation.
- **Social marginalisation:** When someone cannot participate in everyday leisure activities, it is known as social marginalisation.
- Denial of access to clubs and organisations is an example of social marginalisation.

What are the causes of Marginalisation?



Causes of Marginalisation

- Marginalization can result from intentional campaigns that exclude certain people (like ethnic groups) from society.
- It can also occur unintentionally due to structures that benefit some members of society while making life challenging for others.
- **Discrimination and bias:** Discrimination refers to “the process by which a member, or members, of a socially defined group is, or are, treated differently (especially unfairly) because of their membership of that group”

Causes of Marginalisation

- This unfair treatment arises from “socially derived beliefs that each [group] holds about the other” and “patterns of dominance and oppression, viewed as expressions of a struggle for power and privilege” (Marshall, 1994).
- Social forces, like racism, sexism, and religious hatred, can lead policymakers or community members to create structures that keep certain groups from participating fully in society.
- For example the prohibition of marriage between people of the same sex.

(Jary and Jary, 1995. p169)

Causes of Marginalisation

- **Poverty:** Poverty is a major contributor to marginalisation.
- Impoverished people often do not have the time or resources to advocate for their interests, either because they live in marginalised communities and lack access to necessary resources or spend excessive time and energy trying to provide for themselves and their families.
- For example, many people burdened by homelessness cannot access mental health services or other social benefits that could improve their lives.

Causes of Marginalisation

- **Structural disadvantages:** Sometimes, society marginalises people by denying them the space or accommodations they need to advocate for their needs and make their voices heard.
- For example, the lack of accessible housing for people with disabilities has increased poverty levels for this group.

Activity

- Working independently **what are the effects of marginalisation**

Feedback what you have learnt to the whole class

Importance of social justice

- Social justice promotes fairness and equity across many aspects of the society.
- For example, it promotes equal economic, educational and workplace opportunities.
- It also ensure the safety and security of individuals and communities.
- Absence of social justice result into **social oppression**

(NEA, 2020)

Activity

Working independently research the term **social oppression**

Feedback what you have learnt to the whole class

Social oppression

- Social oppression refers to oppression that is achieved through social means and that is social in scope—it affects whole categories of people.
- This kind of oppression includes the systematic mistreatment, exploitation, and abuse of a group (or groups) of people by another group (or groups).

What are the Principles of Social Justice?



Principles of Social Justice

There are **four crucial principles** of social justice

These four interrelated principles include

- **Human rights.**
- **Access,**
- **Participation and**
- **Equity**

Human rights

- Over the years the link between social justice and human rights has become strong.
- When a society is just, it protects and respects everyone's human rights.
- Since human rights are recognised globally, this connection is necessary.

Access

- A just society must ensure that their citizens are able to access the basic amenities of life including essentials like shelter, food, and education.
- If access is restricted based on factors like gender, race, or class, it leads to suffering for individuals, communities, and society as a whole.
- Social justice activists work to increase and restore access, giving everyone equal opportunities for a good life.

Participation

- If only some voices are heard in the society, social justice will be impossible.
- This happens when the voices of the marginalised and vulnerable are silenced.
- Even when the society tries to address problems, solutions won't work if the most affected cannot participate in the process.
- Participation must be encouraged and rewarded so that everyone especially those who have not had a chance before can be able to speak.

Equity

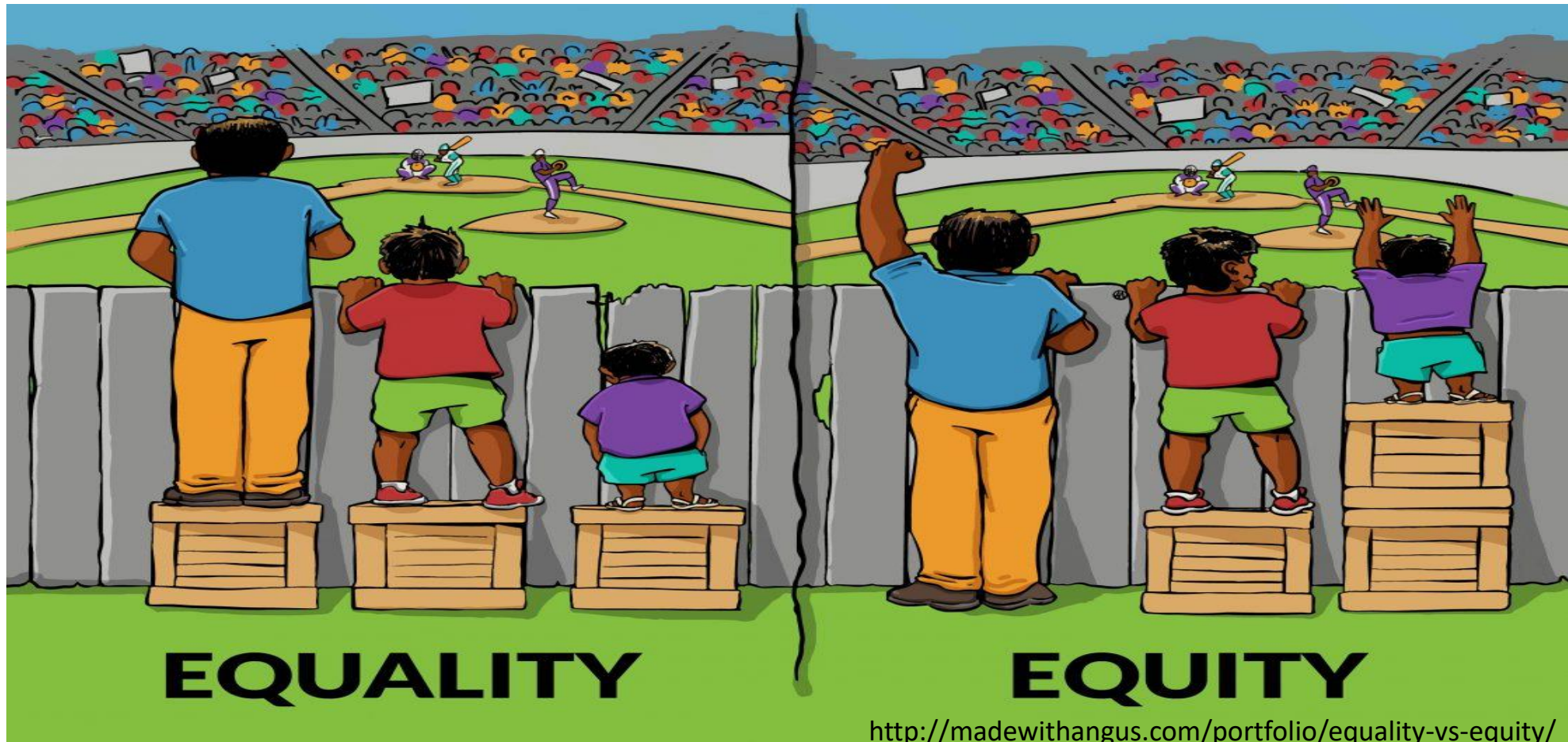
- A lot of people believe that “**equality**” is one of the principles of social justice, but it is actually “**equity**”.

What is the difference?

- Equity takes into account the effects of discrimination and aims for an equal outcome.
- The diagram in the next slides shows the difference

Equality/Equity

Three people are trying to see over a fence.



Equity

- In the visual above one of them is already tall and able to see – this person represent the most privileged in the society.
- The other can just barely see and the last person – the most vulnerable in the society – cannot see at all.
- “**Equality**” gives everyone one box to stand on, even though the tallest person does not need it and it still does not allow the shortest person to see.
- “**Equity**” does not give the privileged person any boxes. Instead, the middle person gets one box and the last gets two. Now, everyone is at an equal level.

Equity

- The term “equity” refers to fairness and justice
- Equity means recognising that we do not all start from the same place and must acknowledge and make adjustments to imbalances/differences
- Whereas equality means providing the same to all.
- Equality is about ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents.
- It is also the belief that no one should have poorer life chances because of the way they were born, where they come from, what they believe, or whether they have a disability

Activity

Watch the video below and discuss and feedback to the whole class

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oPRMGO9FVE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5uKJVDFHFw>
- **Feedback what you have learnt to the whole class**

Activity

Watch the video below and discuss among your peers

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maw6hmlNh44>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgZlqVzSA6s>
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_h65yFanwaE
-
- **Feedback what you have learnt to the whole class**

EQUITY VERSUS EQUALITY

Equity is the quality
of being fair and
impartial

Involves treating
each individual
according to his or
her needs

Considers
individual needs of
people

Pediaa.com

Equality is the state
or quality of being
equal

Involves treating
every individual in
the same manner,
irrespective of their
differences

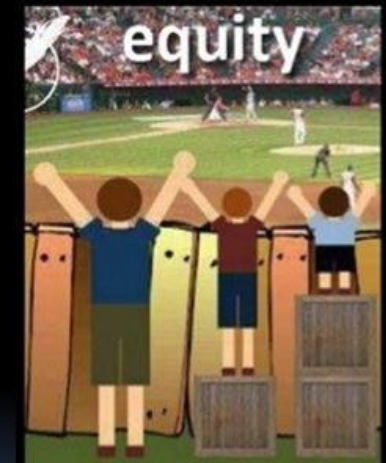
Does not consider
needs and
requirements of
people

Equality vs. Equity



EQUALITY=SAMENESS

**GIVING EVERYONE THE SAME
THING** → It only works if
everyone starts from the same
place



EQUITY=FAIRNESS

**ACCESS to SAME
OPPORTUNITIES** → We must first
ensure equity before we can
enjoy equality

Principle of social justice

SOCIAL JUSTICE PRINCIPLES.

What is social justice?

Social justice is the promotion of human rights and the removal of inequality.

It acknowledges that external factors impact health.

The social justice principles include:

- Equity
- Diversity
- Supportive environments



EQUITY.

Equity is provision of resources to the disadvantaged to ensure equal and fair health for all population groups.

This results in priority population groups receiving additional funding as they have poorer health outcomes than other Australians.

Example:

The government initiative - 'Close the Gap' campaign provides funding and additional support to Indigenous Australians to ensure that their health outcomes are the same as non-Indigenous Australians. In particular, the campaign focuses on 'closing the gap' in life expectancy for the ATSI population.

DIVERSITY.

Diversity refers to the differences that exist between individuals and people groups.

It accepts cultural, religious and other differences to acknowledge the needs for all members of society.

Example:

Translation services are available to culturally diverse and linguistic people to ensure that they receive the same access to health services and facilities.

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS.

Supportive environments are environments where people live, work and play that promote and support health.

Example:

Having 'no-smoking areas' in public places supports healthy choices to minimise smoking. It is a way to encourage individuals to quit smoking by creating a stigma of the risky behaviour not being socially acceptable.

Principle of social justice

Watch the video below and discuss among your peers

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoMTw_goEcM

Feedback what you have learnt to the whole class

Activity

Watch the video below and

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-C_onGQhiqE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-C_onGQhiqE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQvVhvCwHGc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtBvQj2k6xo>

Feedback what you have learnt to the whole class

Examples of Social Justice problems...

- Racial equality
- Gender equality
- LGBTQ+ rights

Racial equality

- Racial inequality is one of the most common social justice issues in the world.
- Most countries have a history of racial discrimination and prejudice of certain kind.
- It affects a racial group's ability to find work, get access to healthcare, and receive an equal education.

Activity

Working independently research the term **prejudice**

Feedback what you have learnt to the whole class

Racial equality

- Despite Race Relations Acts, non-white citizens still encounter discrimination and even hostility.
- On average they have lower incomes, higher unemployment and are more likely to live in overcrowded accommodation than the white majority.
- Although the law forbids racial discrimination ethnic minorities/BAME are more likely to live in poverty.

Activity 4

Working independently answer the questions

- What does BAME means in the United Kingdom?
- What are the different groups under BAME in UK?

Feedback your findings to the whole class

Gender equality

- Globally, it will take a while for gender equality to become a reality.
- Obstacles like the gender pay gap,
- Weakening reproductive rights, and
- Unequal education opportunities hold women back.

Activity 5

- Working independently answer the questions
 - What is the meaning of the acronym LGBTQ ?
 - That is what does each of the letter signify
-
- **Feedback your findings to the whole class**

LGBTQ+ rights

- People in the LGBTQ+ community face high levels of violence and discrimination all over the world.
- Among other challenges, it affects their ability to find employment, shelter, healthcare, and safety.
- It is more dangerous in some countries than others,
- But even in the most progressive countries, social justice for the LGBTQ+ community is not well-established.

Examples of Social Justice...

- Social Justice in relation to **health** include the following
- Information designed to educate the public about healthy lifestyles should be provided in languages that the community can understand.
- Health policies should ensure that all people have equal access to health care services.
- People living in isolated communities should have the same access to clean water and sanitation as a person living in an urban area.
- People of low socioeconomic backgrounds should receive the same quality of health care as a person of higher socioeconomic background.

***What are the Biggest Social
Justice issues?***



Biggest Social Justice Issues

- Voting rights. Exercising the right to vote is one of the social justice issues.
- This encourage those who can vote to exercise their right and work to eliminate barriers to participation
- Climate justice
- Healthcare
- Refugee crisis
- Racial Injustice
- Income Gap
- Gun Violence
- Hunger and food insecurity

How can Social Justice be promoted?



Promoting Social Justice

To promote social justice the following strategies are required

- Concentrate on diversity
- Confront the implications of oppression
- Learn and address the attitudes and behaviours that sustain oppression
- Adopt an inclusive mindset

What causes social injustice?



Causes social injustice

- Discrimination is a root of social injustice because
- **By its very nature it is unjust.**

Discrimination is prejudice in action;

- It occurs when a person or group of people is treated unfairly compared to others.

What is social injustice?



Social injustice

- “Social injustice is also the way unjust actions are done in the society.
- Social injustice occurs in a situation where the equals are treated unequally and the unequal is treated equally”.

(honorsociety.org, 2020)

Examples of social injustice

- “Social injustice issues would be things like unfair labour practices, racial discrimination, discrimination due to gender, orientation, ethnicity, age”.
- Also, the death penalty, inequality of health care, public school quality in poor income areas, etc.
- It is any issue affecting a society where there are differences based on certain criteria, generally affecting marginalised groups or those who are not considered to be ‘equal’ to the ‘norm’.”

Examples of social injustice

Three common examples of social injustice include:

- **Discrimination,**
- **Ageism and**
- **Homophobia.**

Activity 5

Working independently research the term

Ageism and Homophobia.

- **Feedback your findings to the whole class**

What is Diversity?

Diversity

- Diversity means respecting the distinction between people and behaving well towards people's worth, trust, cultures and way of life with esteem and respect.
- Especially in a health and social care organisation, equality and diversity must be integral to whatever you do.

Diversity

- Diversity in any organisation means having a labour force composed of numerous races, ages, genders, ethnicities, and orientations.
- In other words, it refers to when the medical and administrative staff of a healthcare or social care establishment expresses a wide range of experiences and background.

Diversity characteristics

Diversity in health and social care can refer to several qualities/characteristics listed below

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Age
- Sexual orientation
- Religion

Diversity characteristics

- Political beliefs
- Education
- Physical abilities and disabilities
- Socioeconomic background
- Culture

Diversity

- D-Different
- I-Individual
- V-Valuing
- E-Each other
- R-Regardless of
- S-Skin
- I-ideology
- T-Talents
- Y-Years

Activity 4

Watch the video below and discuss among your peers

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-uyB5l6WnQ>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5JcGo3FCyk>

Feedback what you have learn to the whole class

References

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- Schatz E. Schiffer K. (2008) Marginalisation. Available at: https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/11927/1/Correlation_marginalisation_web.pdf (Accessed date 21st October 2022)