Knowledge Network on Social Exclusion

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Dr. Reynold Verret
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, KN Leader

Dr. Mei-ling Wang, University of the Sciences, Philadelphia
Dr. Marie Yolene Surena, Universite Quisqueya, Port-au-Prince Haiti
Melody Corry, University of the Sciences, Philadelphia
Social Exclusion

- Refers to structures & processes due to which individuals or communities become unable to access social, economic, political & cultural resources; or to participate in social & community life.
- Social exclusion impacts health and is aggravated by health status.
- The causal direction from social exclusion to health inequity is multi-directional and mutually reinforcing.

![Diagram showing feedback loops between Social Inequities, Social Exclusion, and Health Inequities]
Other Structural Determinants (Gender, Discrimination, Social Economic Status, etc.)

Social Exclusion

Intermediary Determinants (residential, housing, health system, etc.)

Health Inequities

Social Context & Policy
Major Associations between Social Exclusion & Health

- **Education**: A gateway and also a multiplier for other social gains.
- **Poverty**: As a major cause and outcome of social exclusion. Associated factors are important.
- **Gender**: inequalities go beyond biological differences/needs, to include unequal social, cultural practices (See definition by WHO, 1998).
- **Marginalization & discrimination** based on ethnic/racial, cultural/linguistic, sexual, physical/mental capacity, housing and migration status, age, e.t.c.
- **Religion**: contributes to or reduces exclusion.
- **Social capital**: Collective characteristics of the society that affect health status, e.g., civil society.
Prioritizing the Associations

Short Term:

- Access to affordable/universal education & strengthening school-based health services.
- Economic opportunity: employment and access to resources
- Promoting communication, representation, bridging language barriers through school, media, and health care system to address health issues.
- Increase community collaborations and integrate health agendas into social networks to address the health of the excluded.
Existing Work or Processes

- WHO’s Global School Health Initiative
- MDGs on universal primary education, gender equality, child, maternal health and HIV
- UNESCO’s Education for All, ICTs for Intercultural Dialogue
- G8’s Africa Initiatives and NEPAD
- International Labour Organisation, Inst for Labour Studies
- Government Action Plan to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion, Quebec, Canada
- Social Exclusion Unit, Office of Deputy PM, UK
- Local/NGOs e.g. Mobile Clinics Program in Maracaibo, Venezuela; Acting through Ukubuyiselwa, Johannesburg, South Africa; Women’s Agenda for Change, Cambodia e.t.c.
Policy & Program Options

- Education: Integrating education/programs on health, anti-stigma, anti-discrimination and gender-related health issues into school curricula.
- Increasing social network capacities for and communication with excluded populations
- Integrating health services into social services for excluded populations
- Egalitarian & anti-discrimination policies in social space, health care, work place, community activities
- Generation of a global policy platform to address forms of social exclusion, taking into account individual country differences and contexts