FACTORS INVOLVED IN SOCIAL CLASS DIFFERENCE IN HEALTH AND DISEASE

Anakha jayachandran
Roll.no.26

Introduction

It is the first concern of those in preventive medicine and those who provide medical care service

To know why there are difference in mortality and morbidity from particular diseases in certain social classes

Factors involved

Physical environment

Difference in services provided

Material resources

Genetic endowment

Educational status

Political system

Attitude to disease,illness and treatment

Other factors included are:

Life style

Alcoholism and drug addiction

Poverty and unemployment

Occupational status

Juvenile Delinquency

Beggary

Prostitution

Population expolsion

1.Physical environment

Difference in mortality and morbidity due to differences in physical environment

Ex: housing, safe water, access to clean air etc

People in the upper social hierarchy enjoy better physical facilities than those in the lower rungs of society

2.Difference in services provided

Difference in the availability of services for different social groups

So far as general practitioner are concerned some areas are undoctored as compared to others

It seems the undoctored areas are the areas where substantial proportion of individual live

3.Material resources

Difference in martial resources

Ex: income,wealth,and possession of tools which can help achieve better health or maintenance of health status in different social groups

4.Genetic endowment

People in one social class tend to marry the same social class

Difference in genetic endowment may influence one's liability to disease

5.Educational status

Educational level varies in different social classes

Ignorant and illiterate are likely to have much difficulty in pursuing measures which may conduct to good health

6.Political system

It is responsible for making decisions regarding resources allocation,manpower policy , choice of technology and degree of medical services made available and accessible to different sections of people

The percentage of GNP spent on health is a quantitative indicator of political commitment

Indian government spend about 3percent of its GNP on health and family

7.Attitude to disease

Attitude to people in health and sickness may vary in difference in social classes

People who regard that illness is a punishment other who regard that illness due to natural causes

People who diagnose illness themselves and others seek early medical aid

Attitude towards illness

Chicken pox occurs due to the curse of goddess

If a soil snake licks that leads to leprosy

Sexual contacts with prostitutes leads to leprosy

Blood loss due to head injury weakness the body

After brain damage one cannot become normal again

Attitude towards treatment

Soil snake should be burnt and the resulting ash should be made into a pashpam that should be taken for 48 days to cure leprosy

Rural folk have favourable attitudes toward herbal and traditional medicine

Those influenced by Gandhian thoughts have favourable attitudes towards naturopathy

Conclusion

The continued difference which show up in many studies of mordibity and mortality and use of medical services are due to persistence of substantial difference in social class
There is a great field of exploration of value systems,the significance of illness to families in different classes
The aim of preventive medicine should be to reduce the social difference in health and disease

Reference

Park's textbook of preventive and social medicine 28th edition

Thank you