

Sociology of Health

It is well established that class, ethnicity and gender are three main determinants of health. At IIT Kanpur we have focused on health issues among the vulnerable classes, ethnic groups and women. In several studies, done jointly with a research NGO, Wizmin Management Consultant, we have examined the issues involved in tribal health, maternal health, post-partum hemorrhage, and vulnerability to HIV. In a pioneering study we developed the framework of Situation Analysis (SA) of HIV/AIDS. This framework was tried in study of HIV risk in Lalitpur district of UP, a district chosen by UNICEF for integrated action. Following this UNICEF sponsored a number of studies on situation analysis of HIV. We have also explored some issues involved in palliative care movement in Kerala, midlife transition among women in Kanpur district, stigma against HIV/AIDS among TB patients in Laddakh, causes of female feticide and social representations of health in the Bondo tribe of Orissa. Our current interests include mental health, effect of stress on mother and child health, and spirituality at work place.

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