Learning Objectives

> Explain how social factors are important for health.

> Compare the Dual nature (applied and thoretical) of medical sociology

> Account for the emergence of new infectious diseases.

THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Determinants of Health	Example
Social Practices and Conditions	Lifestyles, Living and Work Situations
Class Position	Income, Education and Occupation
Discrimination	Race, Gender, Sexuality
Economic	Unemployment
Political	Policies, Government Benefits

>The most important social factors determining health were found to be income, accumulated wealth, education, occupational characteristics, and social inequality based on race and ethnic group. these variables have direct effects on both healthy and unhealthy lifestyles.

>>Also important in influencing the manner that societies organize their resources to cope with health hazards and how they deliver health care to the population at large.

Health is...

not simply a matter of biology but involves social factors that include cultural, political, economic and social in natiure.

Purpose

Medical Sociology recognizes the importance of the complex relationship between social factors and the level of health characteristics of various groups and societies has led to the development of medical sociology as a major role.

As an academic discipline, Sociology is concerned with the social causes and consequences of human behavior. **Therefore Medical Sociology focuses on the social causes and consequences of health and illness.**

Areas of Investigation

> Social causes of health and disease
> Health disparities
> Social behavior of health care personnel and their patients
> The social functions of health organizations and institutions
> The social functions of health organizations and institutions
> The social patterns of utilization of health services
> Social policies toward health

The Development of Medical Sociology