

MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY WITH DR SANGEETA CHATTOO

TALKING POINTS

Knowledge:

1. What part of the body does sickle cell disorder affect?
2. Where in the world are inherited blood disorders most common?

Comprehension:

3. What does it mean for a disease to be recessively inherited?
4. How could you find out if a baby has sickle cell or thalassaemia?

Application:

5. What is involved in an ethnographic study? How does it differ from other scientific methods?
6. What are some potential challenges of conducting research like this in marginalised and vulnerable communities?

Analysis:

7. What are some of the ethical implications of screening a foetus or the parents for inherited blood diseases?

Synthesis:

8. How might some of these ethical implications be addressed?
9. Do you think the medical field needs to change or is it an issue of wider society changing its attitudes and/or assumptions?

Creativity:

10. How might a sociological, ethnographic approach be used in other scientific fields? What value can it add to our understanding?

MORE RESOURCES

Sangeeta recommends visiting the following websites for helpful information and resources about studying and working in sociological fields: www.educationcorner.com/sociology-study-skills-guide.html and www.britisoc.co.uk/what-is-sociology

ACTIVITY

Sangeeta is interested in comparing the treatments of blood diseases in the UK and India. If you are working as a class, pick a different disease that is a global health priority. Then, split up into groups. Each group should pick a different country across the world. The next step is to research how the disease is treated in your group's country. Think about:

- What are the treatment methods for the disease in your country?
- How widely available are these treatments? Are certain groups given priority?
- What type of health system does your country have? How is it funded?
- What are the country's cultural attitudes towards health and medicine? Do they differ between communities, e.g., rural/urban communities?
- Are there NGOs and charities in the country working with people who suffer from the disease?

Once each group has finished its research, hold a class discussion to compare your findings. Discuss:

- The similarities across different countries
- The differences
- The reasons for these similarities and differences
- Which countries have been successful in treating the disease
- How this success could be transferred to other countries
- What challenges would any attempts to share this success pose?

If you are working individually, aim to compare your research based on at least two different countries.

