

Peer Review

Review of: "Approaches for Measuring Socioeconomic Status in Health Studies in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Scoping Review"

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Excellent review of the methodologies utilized in the African Continent to measure the key factor that impacts health. You do mention that income alone may miss some key components of SES, but my preference would be to go further in that direction, such as what the ideal SES measurement would look like, i.e., the gold standard. I think it would contain a good mix of the 3 p's: power, privilege, and prestige. The economic portion is privilege, the political portion is power, and the social portion is prestige. For instance, in South Africa under apartheid, some very rich Indian businessmen could not vote or live where they wanted to, which had to be hurtful to mental and physical health. Similar to Jews in Europe prior to WW2 - some very wealthy businessmen were treated as vermin and undeserving of living. If you look at the concept this way, which measurements come closer to the gold standard of the concept? Maybe it's one that hasn't been applied. You may want to add to power whether the person is employed (not in the ownership class) or owns their own business (in the ownership class), but that is getting into social class versus socioeconomic analysis, or something about the country (2nd or 3rd world). Prestige of a job is important too - most college professors have more prestige than business owners but less income.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.