

The Role of Literacy and Education in Global Health: A Study of India

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Background

According to the World Health Organization and the United Nations, literacy and education are _____ (Murthy, 2009).

Purpose of the Study

To understand the impact of literacy and education on health, using India as a model for diverse third world conditions, so that the potential of literacy and education promotion, as a global health tool, can be better utilized.

And potentially, become a tool used everywhere.

Learning Objectives

- 1) Identify national health indicators affected by literacy and education status.
- 2) Explain the impact of female literacy on family health.
- 3) Justify and evaluate the sustainability of public health literacy and education programs.
- 4) And finally, as an application, provide insight into designing and supporting literacy and education initiatives, locally and globally, with a lasting impact.

Introduction

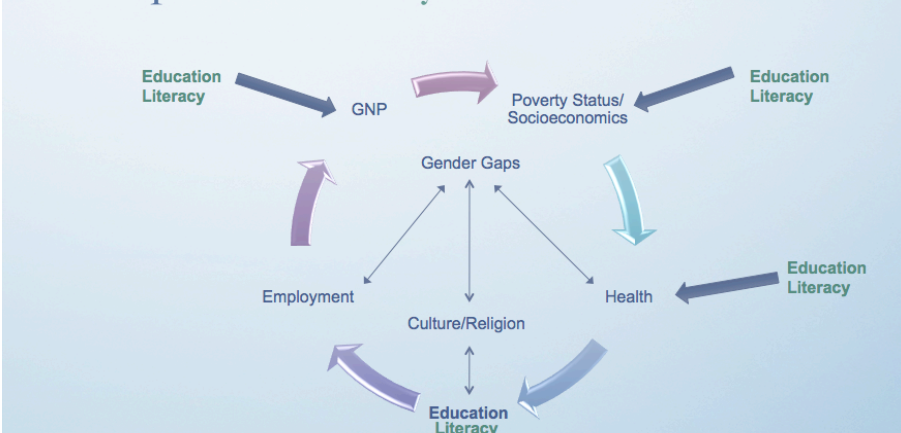
In developing countries, literacy rates are national predictors of _____, _____, and _____.

These are all indicators of _____ status.

The Impact of Literacy and Education on Health

For example, a study on headship and child death in Nepal found that illiterate women were 56% more likely to have a child die than literate women ($p < 0.001$; Adhikari & Podhisita, 2010). Mothers who knew about and utilized infant, child, and family health services were 57% less likely to experience the loss of a child (odds ratio = 0.43; p -value < 0.01 ; Adhikari & Podhisita, 2010).

The Impact of Literacy and Education on Health



The Maternal Complex

The _____ of good health onto infants, children, and husband of literate wives and mothers (Lee & Mason, 2005).

Methods and Materials

Health, literacy, education, and confounding variables were derived from the 2005 Indian Human Development Survey from the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR, 2008a).

Results

63.5% literacy rate in India.

Male education level was _____ times higher than female education level.

Discussion

Adult female education was found to be _____ as impactful upon the reduction of child death as adult male education in the household.

Female education level per grade (0 to 8) per household reduced child death by approximately 50%.

According to Schell et al. (2007), “Investing in female education might be the most rational intervention that countries can make to prevent avoidable infant deaths” (p. 296).

Practical Application

Joy Beginners School in Kangemi Slums, Nairobi, Kenya

There are struggling schools everywhere in developing countries, and by **hosting book and school-supply drives and fundraisers, organizing partnerships with sister schools and churches in the developed world, spreading the word through community lectures and promotional media and material, or even creating a website where people can donate directly**, you can begin and *sustain* small schools anywhere.

Conclusion

Local education and literacy promotion for women and children may be the most promising and sustainable tool in 21st century global health initiative.

Thank you for your interest and attention. I would love to hear from you!

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Notes