PMAC PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE 2021

WS203

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

| BACKGROUND

The social determinants of health have been increasingly acknowledged as crucial to creating healthy populations particularly since the work of the WHO's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and health equity (CSDH, 2008). This Commission conceptualised the social determinants as the conditions of everyday life and the ways in which the distribution of power and resources in society shape the distribution and nature of these conditions. Estimates are that the contribution of sectors outside health to population health outcomes outstrips the contribution from the health sector. The COVID pandemic has confirmed this as its impact has been felt most acutely by groups who lives are blighted because they experience all or some of factors such as living in unhealthy environments, having insecure jobs, poor housing, low income, being subjected to racism and have little access to education. These adverse socio-economic conditions are often experienced most by women, people with disabilities, people of colour and Indigenous peoples and most people in lower and middle income countries. The COVID-19 pandemic acted as a magnifying glass on these existing inequities, and has highlighted the larger pandemic of social and health inequities in health across the world. Mental health issues have been exacerbated especially in economically poorer countries linked with poverty, living conditions and lack of resources for taking precautions against Covid-19. There is huge stress on how to live with the virus in these circumstances and people are frustrated and angry with governments and the politics of Covid-19 response.

This session will also examine sectors beyond the health sector that will have a big impact on health in the post-COVID world and consider how different sectors can contribute to a post-COVID world which is fairer and more sustainable. It will take as its starting point the 2008 report of the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and ask for each sector covered in the report whether more can be done post-COVID to achieve the Commission's goal of closing the gap in life expectancy.

| OBJECTIVES

- Review of the evidence on health inequities globally and within selected countries
- Review of the trends in the distribution of wealth and power
- Contributions concerning changes that are needed in the following sectors: employment, housing, urban planning, welfare systems which will each look at examples of best practice and ask how this could be extended to other settings
- Anti-racism movements including Black Lives Matter protests and measures
- Proposals that would redistribute wealth (taxation reform (including progressive income tax, crack down on tax evasion)

Speaker

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Dipa Sinha is Assistant Professor, Economics at Ambedkar University Delhi. As a researcher and activist she has worked on issues related to food rights, nutrition and public health. She has worked with the Office of Commissioners to the Supreme Court (on the Right to Food) and is actively involved with the Right to Food Campaign, India. She has written extensively on issues related to public policy, gender, health and nutrition. Her book, "Women, Health and Public Services in India: Why are states different?" has been published by Routledge India. She has done her MA in Economics from JNU, MSc in Development Studies from School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London and Ph.d from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi