

Unit Details - Gender and Health in Developing Countries

Basic information about the unit

Unit level: M

Reference Number PDS-M-104

Number of Credits 1

Student Study Hours 150

Class Contact Hours 36

Private Study Hours 114

Pre-requisites Undergraduate degree in social science or equivalent

Excluded Combinations None

Unit Co-ordinator Gaim Kibreab

Parent Faculty: Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences

Parent Course: MSc Development Studies

Short description

The unit introduces the concept of gender and its importance for understanding issues of development and change, as well as the social processes that give rise to the disadvantaged position of women. It also analyses how pre-existing social and economic relations between different categories of people, particularly between women and men are affected by the development process.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the unit you will gain:

- enhanced awareness of gender and health issues in development;
- great depth of knowledge and understanding of the history and politics of discourses on gender and development;
- ability to analyse critically the cultural, religious, ideological, social and economic processes that create and reproduce differences in the positioning of women and men in society with special emphasis on property rights, division of labour, education, health care, employment and power of decision-making;
- ability to analyse critically the interrelations between class, race, ethnicity and gender;
- analytical skill to reflect on gender aspects of organisations, development planning and research;

- ability to reflect on and evaluate the quality, validity or value of the different approaches to development programming in the area of gender and development;
- skill to evaluate the impact of policies and development programmes and projects on the position and wellbeing of women;
- ability to apply the theories on gender and development to address the problem of gender inequality;
- an understanding of the sociological, anthropological and medical/epidemiological perspectives on the determinants of health and well-being, the nature of medical knowledge and practices, and the formulation of health policy in low-income countries; and
- an understanding of the relation between health and the development process, the global nature of health inequalities, contemporary health policy debates and dilemmas and the present and future challenges for health facing low-income countries.

Indicative content

Theorising gender and development; the triple burden: reproduction, production and community management; gender issues in agriculture; gender division of labour; gender and contemporary development problems: engendering adjustment; gender politics and policies: what exactly is it that women want?; the institutionalisation of gender planning; structure of the health component; the World Bank in Uganda.

Assessment method

Assessment for this unit is by examination (85%) and written summary of presentation (15%).

Core texts

See Unit Guide