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Raj S. Bhopal

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RAJ S. BHOPAL

WITH A FOREWORD BY SIR LIAM DONALDSON, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



#5280848 in Books 2007-02-22Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.70 x .90 x 9.60l, 1.46 #File Name: 0198568177375 pages | File size: 28.Mb

Raj S. Bhopal : Ethnicity, Race, and Health in Multicultural Societies: Foundations for Better Epidemiology, Public Health, and Health Care before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ethnicity, Race, and Health in Multicultural Societies: Foundations for Better Epidemiology, Public Health, and Health Care:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A most valuable textBy Dr Sonja M. HuntThis is a marvellous book, a lucid, balanced and comprehensive exploration of a highly complex subject. Although the book is aimed at

epidemiologists and others engaged in health-related research and care, it will be invaluable and mentally challenging to anyone who regularly interacts with individuals from different ethnic groups. The author emphasizes how terms such as Afro Caribbean, Asian and White do little to enlighten us as to the disposition and demeanour of the multitude of people who might be encompassed by such labels. Ethnic categorization has limited usefulness in scientific research where samples must have clearly defined attributes. This issue is dealt with honestly and helpfully. Our attention is drawn to the values implicit in the interpretation of data in the light of lingering stereotypes. It is interesting to observe that in USA some individuals are described as "African American, but no one is referred to as "German American", or "Hungarian American". There are numerous examples of ways in which health professionals and researchers can approach both care and research for and with different ethnic groups and methods for the improved integration of health teams. One omission here is the role which traditional healers might play in an integrated strategy. However, much needed attention is paid to the problems implicit in gathering health information from people whose first language is not that of the country in which they now live. The issue of how to achieve equivalence of meaning of health questions in different languages has received much attention in health measurement but much less in health care. As Professor Bhopal points out the term 'race', although fallen into disrepute as a means of differentiating between people, is still widely used. I would prefer this word be restricted to plants and competitions. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Tackling a hot topic in a changing world By Dr. L. D. Gruer This is no ordinary book. It is an ideal companion for anyone interested in finding their way through the forest of ignorance, misinformation and prejudice that surround the concepts of ethnicity and race and what they have to do with health and health care provision. The well-organized and lucidly written text is punctuated with vivid verbal illustrations and probing questions for the reader. Raj Bhopal not only gives you access to a wealth of new information about what is known and not known, but also the opportunity to reflect on your own understanding and values. If you read this book, I guarantee that you will, like me, emerge enlightened in more ways than one.

Most of the industrialized world now comprises multi-ethnic societies, with people from widely varying ancestry, cultures, languages, and beliefs. With the globalization of trade, increasing international travel, and migration, the whole world is destined to become multi-ethnic within the next 20 or 30 years. This change poses huge challenges for doctors, nurses, public health practitioners, health-care managers, and policy makers who have to meet legal and policy obligations to deliver health outcomes, and provide health-care of equal quality and effectiveness. To achieve this, they need a solid understanding of the underlying concepts of race and ethnicity, and how these are applied to achieve better health for ethnic-minority populations. They also need to have an awareness of the misuses of these concepts, particularly taking into account the history of racism that permeates many societies to this day. Written in non-technical language, with all terminology explained and defined, this book provides an accessible introduction to these complex issues. The key concepts of race and ethnicity are explained, including their uses and misuses. The strengths and weaknesses of these concepts in terms of epidemiology, policy-making, health service planning, research, health-care, and health promotion are illustrated. The book emphasizes theory, ideas, and principles, and counters the study of ethnicity and race in a theoretical way. Practical application of the theory is demonstrated through the use of extensive examples. The conceptual frameworks of ethnicity and race required by practitioners and researchers are slightly different, including the nature of research questions, the relative value of various methods of classification, and the approach to data analysis, presentation, and interpretation, and these differences are made explicit. Overall, the interdependence of theory and practice is demonstrated, making this an ideal foundation text or refresher for those involved in race and ethnicity from a health care perspective.

"Bhopal's important and comprehensive Ethnicity, Race, and Health in Multicultural Societies challenges us to achieve better health for ethnic minority populations...provides critical and thought-provoking insights into public-health research and clinical practice with multiethnic population."--Lancet "The text is well organized with consistent sections throughout the chapters that guide the reader through exercises and further resources...It will undoubtedly become a seminal text in ethnicity, race and health in multicultural societies."--Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health "Bhopal's important and comprehensive Ethnicity, Race, and Health in Multicultural Societies challenges us to achieve better health for ethnic minority populations...provides critical and thought-provoking insights into public-health research and clinical practice with multiethnic population."--Lancet "The text is well organized with consistent sections throughout the chapters that guide the reader through exercises and further resources...It will undoubtedly become a seminal text in ethnicity, race and health in multicultural societies."--Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health "It is an exceptional and timely teaching tool to expose individuals from multiple disciplines to a broad range of issues associated with race and ethnicity."--Preventive Medicine "Bhopal's important and comprehensive Ethnicity, Race, and Health in Multicultural Societies challenges us to achieve better health for ethnic minority populations...provides critical and thought-provoking insights into public-health research and clinical practice with multiethnic population."--Lancet "The text is well organized with consistent sections throughout the chapters that guide the reader through exercises and further resources...It will undoubtedly become a seminal text in ethnicity, race

and health in multicultural societies."--Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health .."provides readers and health-care practitioners with a strong foundation upon which to begin to think about race, ethnicity, multiculturalism and health care. This will be a useful textbook for health-care and research students at the postgraduate level. The scholarly, but at the same time personal and inviting, style in which the book is written immediately engages the reader and encourages active and consolidated learning."--Bulletin of the World Health Organization "The content scores 'brownie points' for originality, accuracy and being up to date...the message and information in this book are thought-provoking and of practical value. I recommend it to every library, public health professional, research scholar, academic, clinician, nurse, manager, and care provider in the UK and abroad."--Bashir Qureshi for Journal of the Royal Institute of Public Health ..,"a thought-provoking, analytic and comprehensive treatise on the concepts of culture in society in general, and subsequently, how we look at health and disease. Bhopal has created an important foundational resource for those teaching, practicing and/or performing research in a racially/ethnically diverse environment. This book provides value to students of public health and cultural diversity, as well as to researchers. Its contents are valuable to clinicians as well...For those teaching or engaging in scholarly activity in the community, this book is an invaluable resource. I highly recommend it!"--Jeannette E. South-Paul, M.D. in Journal of the National Medical Association "Bhopal's important and comprehensive Ethnicity, Race, and Health in Multicultural Societies challenges us to achieve better health for ethnic minority populations...provides critical and thought-provoking insights into public-health research and clinical practice with multiethnic population."--Lancet "The text is well organized with consistent sections throughout the chapters that guide the reader through exercises and further resources...It will undoubtedly become a seminal text in ethnicity, race and health in multicultural societies."--Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health "It is an exceptional and timely teaching tool to expose individuals from multiple disciplines to a broad range of issues associated with race and ethnicity."--Preventive Medicine..".provides readers and health-care practitioners with a strong foundation upon which to begin to think about race, ethnicity, multiculturalism and health care. This will be a useful textbook for health-care and research students at the postgraduate level. The scholarly, but at the same time personal and inviting, style in which the book is written immediately engages the reader and encourages active and consolidated learning."--Bulletin of the World Health Organization "The content scores 'brownie points' for originality, accuracy and being up to date...the message and information in this book are thought-provoking and of practical value. I recommend it to every library, public health professional, research scholar, academic, clinician, nurse, manager, and care provider in the UK and abroad."--Bashir Qureshi for Journal of the Royal Institute of Public Health..".a thought-provoking, analytic and comprehensive treatise on the concepts of culture in society in general, and subsequently, how we look at health and disease. Bhopal has created an important foundational resource for those teaching, practicing and/or performing research in a racially/ethnically diverse environment. About the Author Professor Raj Bhopal has written approximately 150 peer reviewed works on subjects including Legionnaires' disease, environmental epidemiology, primary care, ethnicity and health, and the applications of epidemiology. His textbook, Concepts of Epidemiology, published by Oxford University Press in 2002, won the BMA 1st prize in the Public Health category in December 2003. He has served as non-executive Director of the Health Education Authority (1996-1999). In 2000 he was awarded the J W Starkey Silver Medal (2000) of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health for "outstanding work in the promotion of health in medical, paramedical and psychiatric fields". Professor Bhopal was appointed CBE in 2001 for his services to public health; and in November 2005 he was awarded an honorary DSc by Queen Margaret University College for his services to the improvement of health in the community.