

### Patterns of inequality: Health

Those who live in less economically developed countries (LEDCs) tend to have lower life expectancies and higher infant mortality rates than those who live in more economically developed countries (MEDCs). For example, in Somalia, a country considered to be a LEDC, life expectancy is currently 58 years, and they have an infant mortality rate of 64.097 deaths per 1000 live births (Statista, 2022). This is in comparison to Wales, a more economically developed country, where life expectancy is 81.65 years, and the infant mortality rate stands at 4.1 deaths per 1,000 live births (ONS, 2022).

In 2017 the World Health Organisation (WHO) stated an estimated 47% of deaths in LEDCs overall are caused by communicable, maternal, perinatal, and nutritional conditions, compared to 22% globally.

Peters et al. (2008) stated those in LEDCs tend to have less access to health services than wealthier countries. LEDCs account for 90% of the global burden of disease but for only 12% of global spending on health.

#### **Theoretical perspectives on health inequalities:**

Modernisation theorists believe Western medicine is superior, and therefore Western medicine would solve the problems of high infant mortality and low life expectancy. Rostow (1971) argued that high tech medicine should be transferred to developing nations so that quality health care can be provided. Dependency theorists believe Western medicine is expensive and unaffordable for LEDCs. They also argue that it is poverty that is causing illness, which needs to be considered if health inequalities are to be addressed fully. Dependency theorists also blame colonialism, as the process of colonialism introduced European diseases to Africa, Asia, and America. These people had no immunity to these diseases.

### Patterns of inequality: Education

The UN (2018) stated that around 260 million children in LEDCs are not in any form of education.

UNESCO (2016) stated sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rates of education exclusion. Over one-fifth of children between the ages of about 6 and 11 are out of school, followed by one-third of youths between the ages of about 12 and 14. Almost 60% of teenagers between the ages of about 15 and 17 are not in school.

The World Bank (2022) claimed South Sudan spends 1.5% of its GDP on education per year, whilst the United Kingdom spends 5.2% of its GDP on education.

Hossain (2021) stated that during the COVID-19 pandemic, those children in LEDCs were less likely than those in MEDCs to be able to access any form of education.

#### **Theoretical perspectives on education inequalities:**

Modernisation theorists claim an educated population is a productive population. Hoselitz (1975) believes a meritocratic education system is a motor of development. Dependency theorists state education reinforces dependency. While Carnoy (1974) states mass education and its content (based on developed world) will not benefit the mass population unless it is accompanied by change in the social structure (e.g. poverty).

### Patterns of inequality: Poverty and employment

Pape and Wollburg (2019) stated that 77% of the Somali population lived in absolute poverty as of December 2017. World Vision (2021) claimed that, globally, 689 million people live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$1.90 a day. Children and youth account for two-thirds of the world's poor and women represent a majority in most regions. Extreme poverty is increasingly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa. About 40% of the region's people live on less than \$1.90 a day. The World Bank (2022) stated 27.01% of Ethiopia's population live below \$2.15 a day, compared to only 0.31% of the UK's population live on this amount.

In 2021 the International Labour Organization (ILO) stated that the informal economy is most prevalent in developing countries and two billion workers, representing 61.2% of the world's employed population, are in informal employment globally. Such workers are not legally recognised or are insufficiently protected under the relevant legal and regulatory frameworks. As a result, they tend to face a higher degree of vulnerability, such as income insecurity. Workers engaged in informal employment, particularly women, earn substantially less than formally employed workers on average.