

# CORRESPONDENCE

## SOCIAL DEPRIVATION INDEX IN URBAN MALAYSIA

*Dear Sir,*

Occupation has traditionally been used to denote differences in social status, <sup>1</sup> and, by implication, to show differences in deprivation. But as others including Townsend and Davidson <sup>2</sup> have pointed out, a variety of other factors play an important role in determining social class. In developing countries where the majority of the population do not enter conventional occupational categories, classification by occupation is not very useful. In such circumstances, social differentiations may be far more complex, and there is a particular need for a more appropriate social classification than occupation alone.

An index of social deprivation, measuring relative poverty among low income families in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, has just been developed. <sup>3</sup> Indicators used to derive the social deprivation index include family size, crowding in the home, family income, marital status of the mother, mother's education, family possessions, housing, sanitation and source of water supply.

In a small household study 191 mothers living in squatter areas with an innovative action programme <sup>4</sup> were interviewed. Obstetric outcome was enquired about and validated against records. High social deprivation measured by this index

correlated with poor obstetric outcome, in particular with anaemia during pregnancy, eclampsia and postpartum haemorrhage.

*Yours faithfully,*

*Bailah Leigh,  
Hermoine Lovel,  
Khairuddin Yusof\**

*\* Professor Social Obst. & Gynae.,  
University of Malaya,  
Kuala Lumpur.*

### REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> General Register Office; Classification of occupations. HMSO, London, 1951.
- <sup>2</sup> Townsend P, Davidson N, eds. Inequalities in health (The Black Report) Penguin Books, 1982.
- <sup>3</sup> Leigh B. Social deprivation: an obstetric problem? A study of obstetric outcome in squatter settlements in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. MSc. dissertation, Tropical Child Health Unit, University of London, 1982.
- <sup>4</sup> Yusof K. Sang Kancil: Human development centres in urban squatter settlements. University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 1981. (unpublished)

## TREATMENT OF HICCOUGH BY ACUPUNCTURE — A REPORT OF TWO CASES

*Dear Sir,*

Two cases of hiccough that failed to respond to the usual medical measures were treated with Acupuncture.

Hiccoughs may originate from central nervous system disorders for example, encephalitis or brain-stem injury.

More commonly it appears to be initiated by reflexes arising from neighbouring organs, for example, myocardial infarction, pneumonia, gastric distension, pancreatitis or peritonitis. When

these can be ruled out by careful history-taking and physical examination, there are still patients, the cause of whose hiccough may be classified as idiopathic.

### Case Report

This author treated a 40-year old male Chinese with hiccoughs of two weeks' duration, and a 61 year old male Indian with two days' continuous hiccough.

Both patients agreed to try Acupuncture treatment though neither has had any Acupuncture treatment previously.

They were told to do deep breathing while under Acupuncture treatment with moderately strong stimulation for 15 minutes from AS767 Acupuncture Stimulator.

Two body Acupuncture points were selected: *Neikuan* (P-6) and *Tsusanli* (S-36). In both patients, the right side points were used for convenience. After the usual cleansing of the sites with alcohol swabs, the Acupuncture needles (2 *tsun G-30*) were firstly at *Neikuan* (right foreman) and then at *Tsusanli* (right leg). As soon as the second needle was inserted and the patients experienced 'needle feeling' or "Te-chi" (in Chinese) the hiccoughs ceased, in both cases.

I also inserted one magnetic thin ear needle at the Diaphragm area (the crux of the helix) for patient A in view of his longer duration of hiccoughs. I followed them up initially at weekly intervals for three weeks and both were free from hiccoughs during the period of follow-up. They

were advised to return if their hiccoughs should recur.

I feel that there is a place for Acupuncture treatment for hiccoughs especially of the idiopathic type. When the hiccough is caused by medical conditions in the central nervous system, or in the neighbouring organs, the primary medical condition(s) will require to be treated first before any attempt to treat the hiccough by Acupuncture is made.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Stephen K A Wong, MB.BS (Western Australia)  
First Floor, Lot 305,  
Beautiful Jade Centre, Miri, Sarawak.*

#### REFERENCE

Basic Acupuncture — The Chinese Acupuncture Science  
Research Foundation and Training Centre, Taipei, Taiwan  
1977.

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### A PSYCHIATRIC RATING SCALE FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA IN SINGAPORE (WOODBIDGE HOSPITAL RAINING SCALE FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA) Med. J. Malaysia 1982, 37, 300-305.

*Dear Sir,*

Though the name "Woodbridge Hospital Rating Scale for Schizophrenia" suggests it, the psychiatric rating scale for Schizophrenia formulated by Prof Wing Foo Tsoi is not used in Woodbridge Hospital for diagnostic, prognostic or other purposes.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Dr Teo Seng Hock  
Director  
Woodbridge Hospital  
Singapore 1954*

*We sent a copy of this letter to the authors who  
reply:*

*Dear Sir,*

*The above scale was developed with the help of  
doctors in Woodbridge Hospital and hence it was  
given an alternative name for ease of reference.  
The purpose of this scale is to provide a simple  
method of quantifying psychiatric abnormalities  
that are important for schizophrenia. It is not used  
for diagnostic or prognostic purpose.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Assoc Prof Tsoi Wing Foo  
Head,  
Dept. of Psychological Medicine*