Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health in Multicultural Societies (2nd edition)


Bhopal is a Professor of Public Health at the University of Edinburgh and Honorary Consultant of Public Health at NHS Lothian. This is the second edition of this book, with the first being published in 2007. How this edition differs from the first in that the author now adds emphasis on migration and health, as opposed to his previous stance on the concept of ethnicity.

Bhopal has built on international examples that were in the first edition in relation to policy, including World Health Organization initiatives of 2008 and 2010.

Bhopal has also generally updated concepts in the first edition, has simplified the language, shortened reference lists and added new material specifically on migration, various groups of migrants, and information of ‘special’ minority groups, i.e. indigenous and Roma (gypsy) populations.

This edition has 10 chapters detailing the concepts of race, ethnicity and migration in the context of health care.

Specific chapters detail health and international migration, terminology and classifications: census and population registers, collecting and interpreting data, historical development of health and services, assessing health needs using quantitative and qualitative data, inequalities, inequities and disparities, priority setting, policy and strategy to improve health, research policy and researching and finishes with theoretical, ethical and future-orientated perspectives on health, migration status, race and ethnicity.

Each chapter has learning objectives, with exercises relating to key concepts and the application of these concepts. Bhopal describes the historical notions of race and ethnicity and how these have shaped current views, specifically in relation to health. He talks about the gathering of ethnic health data, and a framework for the use of this data for improving the health of minority populations. He describes the impact of migration and how important this factor is in considering the provision of health services and public health campaigns.

Bhopal even describes the touchy subject of racism and its continued prevalence in society worldwide. There are general and more specific examples of policy, lessons, and descriptions that relate to each concept in each chapter from different societies and countries. Most of these examples are UK-based, however do include examples from Europe, Africa, the USA and further afield.
Bhopal’s concepts and points of view are well thought out and researched. The concepts and frameworks are well described and easily applied to different settings in health.

This book would be useful for any health professional involved in public health or those wanting a greater understanding of the impact of migration, race and ethnicity in the ever-changing context of health care. It would also be a valuable addition to any health school library or a valuable tool for anyone wishing to gain more understanding on the implication of migration ethnicity and race on health service delivery.

**Rebecca Pascoe**  
Clinical Studies Research Nurse  
Academic Department of Surgery  
University of Otago Christchurch  
Christchurch, New Zealand