Social Determinants of Health, Individual Writing Assignment: Guideline on Report Writing

Please write up a report in 1500-2000 words (min. 1500 words, max. 2000 words) based on the topic in your group presentation/seminar. I will suggest the titles in the later part of the course. The overarching theme should be about improving equity in health by addressing the specific social determinant of health in the seminar. You are welcome to use any resources, including the WHO reports on SDH.

You will be assessed mainly on the content, followed by organization, logic, composition, style, and references (citations). Marks will be deducted in assignments that exceed the word limit. Graphs and charts can be included in the report and they are not counted as word; however, marks will be deducted with excessive use of graph and charts.

1. Executive Summary (250-300 words)
   * A summary of the whole report
2. Introduction (Why this topic and what is the public health significance?)
   * Background for the subject matter
   * Problem statement – magnitude and impact of the problem, public health significance, current policies and programmes (address the gaps)
   * General and specific objectives
   * Lay out of report
   * Definition and measurement of specific Social Determinant of Health in the group presentation
3. Literature Review (How do we justify the gaps/ issues?)
   * Subsections under literature review should tally with the objectives specified in the Introduction
   * Identify the evidence for health inequalities/disparities (should include global as well as local evidence)
   * Identify significant findings/ gaps from literature review (measures, methodological challenges, etc)
   * Identify current public health policies and programs (if any) targeting the studied SDH in Malaysia
4. Discussion (How do we explain the findings from literature review?)
   * Discuss significant findings from literature review (this should also tally with your objectives)
   * Discuss the SDH using ecosocial theory or WHO CSDH framework
5. Conclusion and recommendations (What can be done?)
   * Conclude by highlighting the important findings/ gaps found in literature review
   * Give recommendations – public health/social policies, multilevel interventions or programs that target SDH. What can be improved? Methods to influence attitudes or policy change?
   * Personal reflection on the topic