

# Socioeconomic status

**Socioeconomic** status is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's economic access to resources and social position in relation to others

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Meritocracy, a concept revered as the cornerstone of **fairness** and equal **opportunity**, is critically examined in the context of neurosurgery.

**Success** in this demanding field is solely determined by individual abilities and effort. It reveals that factors such as background, **gender**, and socioeconomic **status** significantly influence one's career trajectory. By investigating how these systemic barriers impact **admissions** to **neurosurgical training** programs and professional advancement, the paper underscores the complexity of meritocracy in neurosurgery, suggesting that the meritocratic ideal is more nuanced and influenced by external variables than commonly believed.

Certain universities deemed elite offer a **curriculum** divergent from that of their counterparts in low and middle-income countries. Students at these “elite” institutions gain exposure to new technologies and research incentives, which brings us to the realm of research. Remarkably, 75% of articles originating from developed nations account for just 25% of traumatic brain injury cases. This disparity highlights a significant research imbalance, and the common refrain underscores the need to bolster research capabilities in low-income countries. For neurosurgeons in the developing world, engaging in research often becomes a luxury due to multifaceted challenges. Financial barriers, including **publication** costs and paywalls for accessing articles, pose significant hurdles. Comparing salaries between countries underscores the glaring divide according to “Neurosurgeon Salary” in 2024. Neurosurgeons in the United States receive a median salary of \$412,000 dollars per year, compared to \$13,200 dollars in Latin America, as of June 2023. Given such incongruities, the prospect of even attending conferences or workshops abroad remains difficult for neurosurgeons from developing nations. Research isn't cast aside due to a lack of interest but due to resource limitations. The present landscape demands reconsideration.

They underscore the journey towards a more inclusive and equitable future in neurosurgery as not just a goal, but a dynamic process fuelled by **resilience**, **collaboration**, and a commitment to **diversity**. The narrative promotes a collective endeavour to dismantle barriers and embrace **innovation**, emphasizing the importance of **mentorship**, cross-institutional **collaboration**, and the amplification of underrepresented voices <sup>1)</sup>

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Encarnacion Ramirez MJ, Peralta Baez IA, Reyes Soto G, Ntalaja Mukengeshay J, Tshiunza CM, Rosario AR, Vladimir Nikolaevich N, Nurmukhametov R, Kannan S, Simfukwe K, Duchén Rodríguez LM, Chmutin G, Chmutin E, Sufianov A, Soriano Sanchez JA, Demetriades AK, Baldoncini M, Campero A, Piavchenko G, Montes de Oca JCR, Kalangu KK, Jenkins A, Lafuente J. Challenging assumptions: “unveiling meritocracy's reality in neurosurgery”. Front Surg. 2024 Jul 16;11:1423999. doi: 10.3389/fsurg.2024.1423999. PMID: 39081486; PMCID: PMC11286565.

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