

.....

Authors' affiliations

J Adamson, S Ebrahim, Department of Social Medicine, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK
K Hunt, Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK

Funding: The West of Scotland Twenty-07 study is funded by the MRC.

Correspondence to: Dr J Adamson, Department of Social Medicine, University of Bristol, Canynge Hall, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2PR, UK; joy.adamson@bris.ac.uk

Accepted for publication 17 October 2002

REFERENCES

- 1 **Macintyre S**, Hunt K, Sweeting H. Gender differences in health: are things really as simple as they seem? *Soc Sci Med* 1996;**42**:617–24.
- 2 **Arber S**, Cooper H. Gender differences in health in later life: the new paradox? *Soc Sci Med* 1999;**48**:61–76.
- 3 **Ford G**, Ecob R, Hunt K, *et al*. Patterns of class inequality in health through the lifespan: class gradients at 15, 35 and 55 years in the West of Scotland. *Soc Sci Med* 1995;**39**:1050.
- 4 **Martin J**, Meltzer H, Elliot D. *OPCS surveys of disability in Great Britain: Report 1. The prevalence of disability among adults*. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1988.
- 5 **Lahelma E**, Martikainen P, Rahkonen O, *et al*. Gender differences in ill health in Finland: patterns, magnitude and change. *Soc Sci Med* 1999;**48**:7–19.

THE JECH GALLERY.....

The right water and the right to water

Twenty per cent of the world's population lack access to clean water, 80% of them being rural dwellers. Some 2.3 billion people each year suffer from diseases linked to water, and a child dies every eight seconds from contaminated water. Clean and safe water has been considered an important step towards development. In fact, the single public health intervention that achieved most in the 20th century was an improvement in water and sanitation. In November 2002, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights issued a statement declaring access to water a human right and stating that water is a social and cultural good, not merely an economic commodity. The image, from the Peruvian rainforest, shows a water barrel, and, next to it, smaller containers for cooking, washing, and cleaning. Malaria, diarrhoea, and malnutrition are the area's neighbours.



J J Miranda

International Health and Medical Education Centre,
 University College London, London N19 5LW, UK;
 j.miranda@ucl.ac.uk