**FINAL PAPER BUILDING BLOCK**

**THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPY #5**

**Sojourner Syndrome and Health Disparities in African American Women**

The author affirms that African Americans in the United States experience poorer health status than other racial or ethnic groups because of health disparities and that the quality of healthcare varies according to race. It is also stated that African American women have a shorter life expectancy and experience earlier onset of chronic diseases and more years of disability than do white women. Health disparities are so prevalent that it is regarded as a social justice issue among women of color but research have failed to thoroughly explain the cause of these conditions that lead to poor outcomes. There are disparities occurring in many forms and at different levels of care. Upcoming research is giving more attention to environmental, social, and economic factors such as poverty, discrimination, and segregation which have contributed to stress and negative health outcomes in African American women. This article describes an intersectionality research framework which is being used to explain the relationship between race, class, gender, and age and their relevance to the health disparities suffered by women.

The sojourner Syndrome framework was developed by Mullings for a community based research program that examined the social components of health disparities among African American women. It was an attempt to explain the injustices and inequalities suffered by women. It was designed to further elaborate on the intermingling of race, class, and gender and their relationship with negative health outcomes. This syndrome is patterned after the life of Sojourner Truth; an African American woman who lived during the pre-Civil War era. She was born a slave in New York and had an oppressive upbringing. She became the voice of disenfranchised black women everywhere.

The author suggest that targeting healthcare alone would not rectify or get rid of health disparities. One should look at the broader picture and take into account social, political, economic, public policy structures, and power dynamics that foster such an environment which proliferate such health disparities. This article will be used as a primary source to further enlighten the reader as to the inequalities and injustices that women of color encounter in healthcare today.

Deborah Lekan, M. R. (2009). Sojourner Syndrome and Health Disparities in African American Women. *Advances in Nursing Science*, 307-321.