

Health, Development, and Human Rights

Do Patents Prevent Access to Essential Medicines?

As you read the material for the next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the readings:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently to these issues in the next class meeting.

Readings

- Amir Attaran, "How Do Patents and Economic Policies Affect Access to Essential Medicines in Developing Countries?"

Questions

1. What is the question that Amir Attaran wants to answer? What are the three steps his study proposes to take in order to answer this question?
2. What are the results of the study? How does Attaran account for them? Why are these results important?