

Welcome class to the program, Bachelor of Arts, Second Year

subject sociology semester 3 paper code SOGE 103 paper title

sociology of health.

Title of the unit structuring of health module name social

construction of illness and treatment. Module number 4

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The outline of this module is meaning of illness.

The cultural meaning of illness and the social construction of

the illness experience.

Learning outcomes the student will be able to understand

how the meaning of illness is socially constructed.

To know the importance of social construction of illness.

The social construction of illness and Health explores how

various social forces are responsible for modeling or

understanding of actions towards illness, health, and healing.

For instance, some illnesses are predominantly implanted with

cultural meaning that is not drawn from the actual nature of

the illness itself.

These meanings are developed from society's response to

those who are afflicted and thus is able to affect the

manner in which the illnesses experienced.

Some of the social forces and factors that form

social construction of illness and health.

There could be a wide ranging social factors that form social

construction of illness and health such as class.

Race. Gender

technology. Culture,

political economy. As well as institutional and

professional structures.

These factors impact on people's knowledge and understanding

about the pervasiveness occurrence, treatment, an

implication of disease.

Also, there is a view that illnesses are socially

constructed at the empirical level and people comprehend and

live with the illness. According To this construction.

The social construction of

illness. If we socially construct our ideas of health

and illness, it follows that members of very poor society may

view hunger and malnutrition as normal. Similarly, people in the

rich nations may give little thought to the harmful effects

of reach. Dyett response to illness two is based on social

definition that may or may not square with medical facts.

For example, People with AIDS contend with fear and sometimes

outright bigotry that has no

medical basis. Some of the stigmas that are attached to HIV

and AIDS include ostracism

rejection. Avoidance of people living with AIDS.

Discrimination directed towards those perceived who have AIDS or

HIV. Discrimination towards individuals, groups and

communities with which they are

associated. HIV inflict suffering on people and

interferes with their attempts to fight the AIDS epidemic.

The cultural meaning of illness. Many medical sociologists

contend that illnesses have both a biological, an experiential

component. These components are independent of each other and it

is our culture and not our biology that stigmatizes certain

illnesses. For instance sociologist Erving Goffman in

1963 described how social stigmas hinder individuals from

fully integrating into society.

The stigmatization of illness often has the greatest effect on

the patient and the kind of care he or she receives.

Many contend that our society and even our healthcare

institutions discriminate against certain diseases.

Such as mental disorders, aids, venereal diseases,
skin disorders.

So much so that facilities for this disease is maybe even
subpar. They may be segregated from other health care areas, or
relegated to a poorer
environment. The stigma may keep people from seeking help for
their illness, thus making it worse than it needs to be.

Some of the stigma against mental illness. Stigmatization
happens when a person defines someone by their illness rather
than by those, rather than who they are as an individual. For
example, they might label they might be labeled as psychotic
rather than a person
experiencing psychosis. For People with mental health
issues, the social stigma and discrimination they experience
can make their problems worse, making it harder to recover.

It may cause the person to avoid getting the help they
need because of the fear of being stigmatized.

The harmful effects of stigma will include feelings of shame,
hopelessness, an isolation reluctance to ask for help, or
to get treatment, lack of understanding by family,

friends, or others. Fewer Opportunities for employment or social interaction, bullying, physical violence or harassment, self doubt. The belief that you will never overcome your illness or be able to achieve what you want in life.

What is contested illnesses are those that are question or questionable by some medical

professionals. These orders, like chronic fatigue syndrome, may be either through illness or only in the patients heads.

Depending on the opinion of the medical professional. This dynamic can affect how a patient seeks treatment and what kind of treatment he or she receives.

The social construction of the illness experience.

The idea of the social construction of the illness experience is based on the concept of reality as a social construction. In other words, there is no objective reality.

There are only our own perceptions of it.

The social construction of the illness experience deals with such issues as the way some patients control the manner in which they reveal their diseases. And the lifestyle adaptations patients developed to cope with their illnesses.

In terms of constructing the illness, experience, culture and individual personality, both play a significant role.

For some people, a long term illness can have the effect of making their world smaller, more defined by the illness than anything else. Culture plays a huge role in how an individual experiences illness. Widespread diseases like AIDS or breast cancer have specific cultural markers that have changed over the years and that govern how individuals and society views them.

Today, many institutions of wellness acknowledge the degree to which individual perceptions change the nature and of health and illness. A pink ribbon is the most prominent symbol of breast cancer awareness.

Pink ribbons, which can be made inexpensively are sometimes sold as fundraisers. They may be worn to honor those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer, or to identify products that the manufacturer would like to sell to consumers that are interested in breast cancer.

The pink ribbon is associated with individual generosity, faith in scientific progress. Anna can do attitude. It encourages consumers to focus on emotionally appealing,

ultimate vision of a cure for breast cancer.

Importance of social construction of illness and health. Social institutions and structures have a widespread and persistent power, and people are influenced a lot by the social construction ideas of norms and normal. With regard to health factors. By making use of the social constructionist perspective, medical sociologists are able to relate and understand health and illness in many different ways.

At the individual level, it helps in creating self awareness, individual action, an interactive communication and at the Community level to frame public policies. Some of the online as well as the offline references are here for future reference. Thank you.