

Social Medicine and Social Sciences

Facilitator:

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Specific Learning Objectives

- At the end of session, the learner shall be :

Social Medicine

- It is the study of the manner in which disease may result from, cause, or accentuate social problems and how public health efforts may contribute to their solution
- Objective of Social Medicine
 - Identify social determinants of health and disease
 - Devise mechanisms for alleviating suffering and ill health through social policies and action

- Social, cultural, psychological and behavioural factors are important variables in the etiology, prevalence and distribution of disease.
- The way the people live, their habits, beliefs, values and customs are significant determinants of individual and collective health.

- The behavioural sciences have made significant role in developing better understanding about the social etiology of health problems.
 - Sociology,
 - Social Psychology,
 - Cultural Anthropology

Sociology

- Sociology is the science concerned with the organization of structure of social groups.
- It studies the kinds and cause of variation in social structure, and the processes by which intactness of social structure is maintained.
- Sociology deals with the study of society.

Society

- Society is a group of individuals who have organized themselves and follow a given way of life.
- The behaviour of man depends very much upon his relationship with other fellow beings.
- Man is a subunit of a small group; the family, while the family is the basic unit of society.
- Man's behaviour is affected not only by his physical and biological environment but also, to a larger extent by social environments represented by his family.

Community

- A community can be defined as a group of people who have some common characteristics and are bound together by “WE” feeling.
- This sense of ‘we’ feeling (i.e., shared togetherness) may be due to a place where they all stay or due to some other common interest.
- Community affiliations often provide a source of support for individuals and group.
- The sense of group identity eases the growth of motivation. For this reason the community is ideal for focal point of programme.

- Communities can be either:
- **Functional communities:**
 - nongeographical aggregates which are bound together by some common factor other than geographical place of residence or work; e.g., religion (as, Hindu community), occupation (as medical community), special interest (as cricket lovers) or need (as socially backward communities).
- **Structural communities:**
 - organised by geographical or political boundaries.
 - as small as an “indoor patient’s community in a hospital” or increasingly larger, according to a “Mohalla”, village, slum, city, district, state or even a nation.

Culture

- Culture is defined as learned behaviour which has been socially acquired.
- Culture includes all that man acquired in the mental and intellectual sphere of his individual and social life.
- It is a product of human societies.
- Culture is necessary for human being; it makes life worth living and socializes man.
- Cultural factors are deeply involved in all the affairs of man including health and sickness.

Family

- “The Family is a group defined by a sex relationship precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children” (MacIver).
- The family is a primary unit of all societies.
- As a cultural unit, the family reflects the culture of wider society of which it forms a part and determines the behaviour and attitudes of its members.
- The family is an epidemiological unit, and a unit for providing social services as well as comprehensive medical care.

Social Pathology

- Social pathology is the systematic study of human disease in relation to social conditions and disease process outside the human body.
- The cause is to be found in the society. These include:
 - Social Problems (namely, poverty and destitution, illiteracy and ignorance, migration, lower status of women,, child neglect and child abuse, child labour, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency);
 - Social conditions (as housing, environmental sanitation, crime and corruption, stress, suicide) and
 - Social circumstances (Viz., stigma, social isolation, vulnerable populations).

- The causes of social problems, conditions which affect the health of the people are to be understood and actions are to be taken to prevent such problems through health education and rehabilitation.

Social Diagnosis :

- This is made by socio- medical surveys and by study of domestic and social conditions of individuals.

Social Therapy :

- Social therapy offers holistic development centered therapeutic and support services.
- The approach addresses and supports the total social, emotional and educational needs of young and the entire family.
- Clinical treatment of any disease with drug should be supplemented with social therapy as far as possible.
- The Social security measures link between hospital and community, health education, legislation serve as supportive measures.

Psychology

Psychology is a science which studies

- mental processes,
- experiences &
- behaviours

of an individual in different contexts.

• Derived from two *Greek* words

- *PSYCHE* meaning Soul
- *LOGOS* meaning Science or Study of Subject.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

- Social psychology is an attempt to understand and explain how the thought, feeling, and behavior of individuals is influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others.
- Study of how individuals perceive, influence, and relate to others.

ANTHROPOLOGY

- Study of human kind.
- The study of ancient and modern people, the totality of the human experience.
- It is the study of humanity in all places, at all times (this includes the evolutionary history of people).

- Anthropology studies biology, society, language, and culture.
- Anthropology offers a unique cross-cultural perspective by constantly comparing the customs of one society with those of others.
- People share both society, culture and a common evolutionary history.