

Medical Anthropology (2)

What is health?

* WHO concept "**complete** physical, mental, and social **well-being**, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity", with "the capability to function in the face of changing circumstances" / "highest possible level of health" allows people to participate in social life and work productively → many critics and discussion

* Revision movement related to the inclusion of spirituality:

See, Nagase M (2012) Does a Multi-Dimensional Concept of Health Include Spirituality? Analysis of Japan Health Science Council's Discussions on WHO's 'Definition of Health' (1998). *International Journal of Applied Sociology*, 2(6): 71-77.

(<http://article.sapub.org/pdf/10.5923.j.ijas.20120206.03.pdf>)

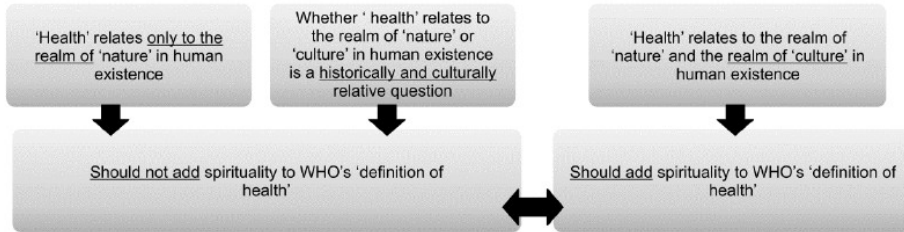


Figure 1. Relation between whether or not spirituality should be added to WHO's 'definition of health' and fixed idea of 'health'

* Biomedical measures: life expectancy, span of healthy life, health behaviors, reserve health, social support, overall birth rate, population growth rate, ...

* Critical medical anthropology concepts

* Public health concepts

* Cultural and organizational concepts

* Personal concepts to improve health

* Systems approach to health: including biopsychosocial model, cultural systems model

<Debate>

"WHO's definition of health is appropriate?" considering the discussion about the inclusion of spiritual health and its denial by the disagreement from religious aspects.

Pro.: Appropriate. Ideal definition is necessary.

Opp.: Inappropriate. WHO should show more practical definition of health.

Re-defining 'Health' (Source: <http://www.mindangles.co.uk/2014/07/the-world-health-organizations.html>)
(The content is not included in the handout for web)

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