MEDICINE AND HEALTH CARE IN CONTROVERSIAL MINORITY RELIGIONS

Liselotte Frisk, Dalarna University, Sweden

Preliminary version. Please do not reproduce or quote without the consent of the author
Close historical ties
Meaning, causes, curing
Mainstream medical care
Lack of medical care because of religious reasons
HEALTH CARE, DISEASES, MEDICAL TREATMENT

- Hare Krishna (5 members, 3 exm, 1 parent)
- Scientology (8 memb, 2 exm, 1 parm, 2 parex)
- Jehovah’s Witn (7 memb, 6 exm, 2 parm, 1 pe)
- Unific Ch (6 memb, 1 exm, 5 parm)
- Plym Brethren (5 memb, 5 parentmembers)
- Knutby Filadelfia (5 members, 2 parmemb)
Conception of disease and how to handle them are socially constructed and related to interpretations of the world.

Course of a disease includes complex sequences of events.

Diagnosis, explanation, meaning, and control.

Experience of disease.

Professional, folk, and popular medical sectors.
 Serving Krishna
 Life style issues
 Remedies
 Ayurvedic treatment preferred
 Chanting when psychiatric illness
 Mercy of Krishna - prayer
 Accept illness in Krishna conscious way
 Spiritual causes of disease
 Vaccinations
THE CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY

- Engrams cause most diseases
- Auditing
- Psychological explanations
- No psychologists or psychiatrists
- Purification Rundown
- Vitamins
- Assists - no aspirin
- Vaccinations
Healing is possible
Laying on hands
Conventional medical doctors are of God
Life style issues
Diseases beyond our understanding
Vaccinations
JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES

- No blood transfusions
- No miraculous healing
- No diseases in the future
- Pray for strength to handle diseases
- Vaccinations
UNIFICATION CHURCH

- Combine Oriental and Western medicine
- Outer or inner causes of diseases
- Inherited sin
- Traditional Chinese Medicine
- Therapies
- Vaccinations
PLYMOUTH BRETHREN

- Conventional medicine
- No healing methods
- Pray in privacy
- Vaccinations
Constructions of health, disease, curing differing in various degrees from mainstream
Rules or subcultural habits?
Individual interpretations
Meaning of disease
Spiritual advancement and health
Causes of disease
Curing and healing
Use of different medical sectors
CONCLUSION

- Religion important factor for construction of health, disease, curing
- Scientology disease model
- Medical risks

Conference cyberproceedings are published for documentary purposes. The view expressed are the author's and do not necessarily represent CESNUR's opinions.