

# **SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**DIPLOMA**

**KRCHN CLUSTER 14 CLASS**

**BY;**

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# Introduction

Concepts of Sociology and Anthropology

## Learning objectives

At the end, learners should be able to;

- Define terms in sociology and anthropology.
- Describe the relationship between social anthropology and health.
- Explain social cultural beliefs and practices that affect health.
- Explain social change and factors that influence it.

# Definitions of Sociology

- **L.F. Ward defines**, “Sociology is the science of society or of social phenomena”.
- **Ginsberg says**, “Sociology is the study of human interaction and interrelation of their conditions and consequences”.
- **Emile Durkheim defines**, “ Sociology as a science of social institutions”.
- **Ogburn and Nimkoff defines**, “Sociology as the study of social life”.
- **Kimball Young defines**, “Sociology deals with the behavior of men in groups”.

# Sociology is

- ❖ the study of society
- ❖ the science of social life.
- ❖ the study of social relationships.
- ❖ the study of human behavior in groups.
- ❖ the study of forms of social relationships.
- ❖ the study of social action.
- ❖ the study of social groups and social systems.

# Anthropology is

- *Anthropology* is the scientific study of the origins of humans, how we have changed over the years, and how we relate to each other, both within our own culture and with people from other cultures.

# Sociology and anthropology

- The key **difference between** the two **social sciences** is that **sociology** concentrates on society while **anthropology** focuses on culture.

# Terminologies used in sociology

- **Group** - this is a combination of more than two persons with common values and objectives, for example, a group of boys walking to the market, a family.
- **Role** - this is defined as an expected behavior attached to social status.
- **Status** - this refers to one's position in a society or social group.



- **Norms** are the standards that govern behavior in roles.
- **Folkways** are customary practices that are considered appropriate behavior but are not rigidly enforced. For example, if one builds their house in a somewhat different shape from the others, they may be considered eccentric or an individualist but people will not be particularly bothered by their behavior.

# Mores

- **Mores** are subject to strong sanctions because they are considered much more important to the welfare of the society. For instance, wives should be faithful to their husbands and not commit adultery. Mores also include taboos, for example, certain communities are not allowed to eat certain animals

# Values

- **Values** are usually inferred from observed behavior. If a person regularly associates with certain people, it can be assumed that they value this relationship.



# Culture



- The general public often thinks of culture as the aesthetic code of society: art, music, drama and literature.
- In their definition of culture, social scientists include everything passed down by human society except its biology.
- This consists of language and technology, laws and customs, beliefs and moral standards.
- The child is born into a society and learns its culture in the process of growing up.

# Social group

- The word **group** may refer to a categorical group, that is, any set of people that the speaker wants to treat as a unit.
- On the other hand, it is also used for corporate groups, that is, people who interact over a period of time and who have some form of organisation, a sense of solidarity and common values, norms and goals which allow them to undertake joint action.



# Institution

- An **institution** may be defined as an enduring complex of norms, roles, values and sanctions embracing a distinct segment of human life.
- The family and kinship institutions are basic to social relations as they give every member of the society a place at birth and are essential for the continuance of the society..

# Function and Dysfunction

- Sociologists are concerned with how a society works as a whole and with how each of the parts fit together.
- Activities that are detrimental to the system are termed **dysfunctions**.

# ENERGIZER

Nduthi za thika na za Zambia - \* 3.



# Importance of Sociology in Nursing

- Sociology is included in the curriculum of nursing because health is included as a social component.
- Most of the illness have social causes and social consequences.
- Sociology gives knowledge to deal with patient and to understand this habits norms, culture and behavior etc..
- The nurse has to understand the necessity of changing the environment or surrounding.

# Importance of Sociology in Nursing

- So this knowledge helps her to avoid prejudices and discrimination.
- As well as a nurse should understand the social position, status and social responsibilities with regard to health field by studying sociology.
- She as to work is accordance with rules and norms of it by removing egoistic and impulse based behavior.
- The nurse to understand the necessity to changing the environment for making recovery better.

# Medicine as a social science

- ““Medicine is a social science in its very bone and marrow’....”  
Salomon Neumann 1847.
- The tools of 21st century medicine include anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and the related sciences, but it is only when social science is added to the tool box that medicine gains the ability to understand and respond to the wants and needs of individual patients, social networks, and whole communities.

- Anthropological inquiry may be strange and foreign to biological scientists because, to quote Geertz<sup>10</sup> again, anthropology is “not an experimental science in search of law but an interpretive one in search of meaning.”

# Sociology in modern health

- Sociologists have demonstrated that the spread of diseases is heavily influenced by the socioeconomic status of individuals, ethnic traditions or beliefs, and other cultural factors.

- Where medical research might gather statistics on a disease, a sociological perspective on an illness would provide insight on what external factors caused the demographics who contracted the disease to become ill.

- diseases are sociologically examined and compared based on the traditional medicine, economics, religion, and culture that is specific to each region.

**END**



**QUESTIONS**