

Sociology and psychology – the scope of cooperation in studying the problems of health and disease

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this dissertation is to identify the scope of convergence of sociology and psychology with special attention to the areas which are especially essential in the analysis of phenomena connected with human health and disease. World Health Organization has defined health as bio-psycho-sociological wellbeing and thus has pointed out three areas which are indispensable in maintaining homeostasis of health (biological, mental and social area), and indicated three disciplines whose mutual cooperation is essential for building up complete knowledge of health and its determinants. Medicine, psychology and sociology are the fields of knowledge whose cooperation is essential to support individual and social health.

Regardless of the distinct fields of research that sociology and psychology cover, it is relatively easy to find within them some common scope of interest relating to health. The most important area of expected cooperation is the problem of psychosocial stress. Another identified areas of cooperation for sociology and psychology are social support and its influence on health, the issue of doctor-patient interaction and its psychotherapeutic effect as well as psychosocial determinants of health and disease.

Research cooperation between sociology and psychology in the above mentioned areas can contribute to its in-depth exploration which may result in practical implementation of acquired knowledge in the areas of health and disease.

Key words: sociology, psychology, human, health
