

Government Degree College Baramulla

(Autonomous)

Subject: Anthropology	Semester: V
Course Title: Medical Anthropology	Credits: 4
Course Type: Major	Cours Code
Learning Outcomes	
● The students will learn about basic concepts about health, sickness and disease from anthropological perspectives.	
● They will learn about various ethnomedical practices in India.	
● They will also learn about variations in health care systems and medical pluralism in India.	
● They will also understand and examine the role of international health organizations	

Unit I: Fundamentals and Theoretical Approaches

- 1.1 Defining Medical Anthropology: history, scope, and key sub-disciplines.
- 1.2 Defining core concepts: Health, Illness and sickness in Cross-Cultural Perspective.
- 1.3 Debates: Western science vs. "traditional" or folk knowledge.
- 1.4 Ethnographic methods in health settings and their ethical application.

Unit II: Health Care System

- 2.1 Variations in Health Care Systems: A Comparative Perspective.
- 2.2 Health promotion and health care delivery programmes.
- 2.3 Family welfare programmes, child health and nutrition programmes.
- 2.4 Women's Health, Sex, Family Planning, and Maternal-Infant Health; Reproductive life.

Unit III: Medical Systems and Healing Practices

- 3.1 Ethnomedicine: The study of indigenous medical systems, their classifications of illness, and therapeutic practices.
- 3.2 Biomedicine as Culture: Analyzing Western scientific medicine (biomedicine) as a distinct cultural system with its own rituals, beliefs, and values

3.3 Ethnomedicinal practices in India, traditional healers and their predicaments, Shaman, Magic, Witchcraft and Sorcery,

3.4 Folk healers and alternative medicine: Problems in evaluating efficacy, Sources of dissatisfaction with mainstream medicine.

Unit IV. Medical pluralism

4.1 Pluralism and Choice: Multiple healing modalities (traditional healers, acupuncturists).

4.2 Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Naturopathy, Homeopathy and Allopathic medical practices,

4.3 Global Health and Development: Examining the role of international health organizations, (WHO, CDC, UNICEF, UNFPA)

4.4 Impact of global epidemics (HIV/ AIDS, COVID 19) and ethical issues in medical humanitarianism.

Books recommended

Alland, A.D Jr. 1970. *Adaptation in Cultural Evolution: An Approach to Medical Anthropology*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Banerjee, B.G and Jalota, Ritula. 1988. *Folk Illness and Ethnomedicine*. New Delhi: Northern Book Centre.

Basu, S. 1994. *Tribal Health in India*. Delhi: Manak Publications.

Budd, Susan and Ursula Sharma. 1994. *The Healing Bond: The Patient-Practitioner Relationship and Therapeutic Responsibility*. London: Routledge.

Caudill, W. 1953. *Applied Anthropology in Medicine*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Chaudhuri, B. (ed.) 1986. *Tribal Health: Socio-Cultural Dimensions*. New Delhi: Inter-India Publication.

Foster, G.M. 1978. *Medical Anthropology*. New York: John Wiley. Freund, P.E.S and M. McGuire. 1995. *Health, Illness and the Social Body*. NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Good, Byron J. 1993. *Medicine, Rationality and Experience: An Anthropological Perspective*. Cambridge: Univ. Press.

Rajesh Khanna and A.K. Kapoor. 2007. *Ethnic Groups and Health Dimensions*. Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi.

Helman, Cecil G. 2001. *Culture, Health, and Illness*. 4th ed. London: Arnold. This book is written for health care practitioners and clearly explains the relevance of culture to health.