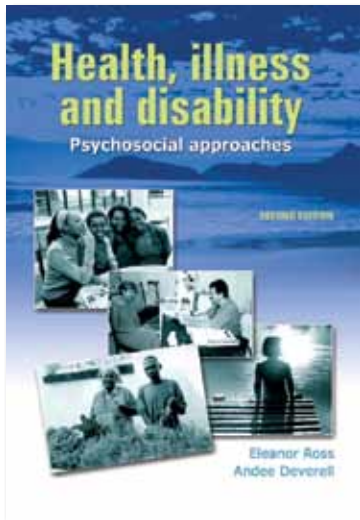


Health, illness and disability – Psychosocial approaches



Health, illness and disability – Psychosocial approaches
 Ross, Eleanor & Deverell, Andee. 2010.
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To the Editor: The boundaries between health care disciplines and between health and social care are increasingly becoming blurred. Effective coordination and harmony in service delivery in a multidisciplinary environment and understanding of the growing need for appropriate, meaningful health care in this environment, emphasise the necessity for health care policies and learning programmes that reflect awareness of these realities. There is a growing awareness, world-wide, of the importance of multidisciplinary, flexible and innovative approaches in the professional preparation of health and social care professionals to enhance development towards seamless as well as cost-effective services. The commitment of academic faculties today is to prepare individuals to become practitioners with the ability to function confidently and competently in the world of health and social care.

“Health, illness and disability” is a comprehensive manual of twenty-three chapters presented in four sections. In the first section the reader is introduced to important issues in the social psychology of health, illness and disability. The chapter on multiculturalism, considering the challenge that this represents in health care, is most relevant. Section 2, which deals with psychosocial issues in selected health

conditions, includes a broad range of disorders which are of particular significance in the South African health care context. In Section 3, key psychosocial interventions are discussed. Areas comprehensively covered are counselling, family-focused interventions, group work and community work. Section 4 concludes the book with two chapters in which “Dying, death, bereavement” and “Promoting health in health care professionals through managing stress and preventing burnout” are addressed.

The aim of a book of this nature is to empower its reader. After having studied the book, I am convinced that the authors will succeed with excellence. The book, as its previous edition no doubt did, will serve as a foundation of knowledge to students, practitioners and teachers of health care, irrespective of professional discipline. It is well prepared, well written, reader-friendly and neatly presented. The content offered is comprehensive, the style of the book and approach of the authors offer insight, stimulate thinking, encourage exploring and testify of their academic and practice experience and excellence. I have found it a most stimulating reader.

With their book, “Health, illness and disability – Psychosocial approaches”, the authors succeed in bridging the gap, transcending the boundaries of professional exclusiveness in health care. It is an excellent addition to the literature needed in multi-disciplinary programme environments for the education of all health care professionals, and to enhance flexibility and innovative approaches in and among programmes.

It was a most rewarding experience to review the book. The authors and publisher are congratulated on its quality and the neatness of presentation.

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