Free ebook Why medical anthropology matters (Read Only)

the field of medical anthropology addresses afflictions of increasing importance that are seldom sufficiently understood by biomedicine alone much of our work focuses on how health problems arise from larger social issues which must also be addressed medical anthropology is a subfield of anthropology that draws upon social cultural biological and linguistic anthropology to better understand those factors which influence health and well being broadly defined the experience and distribution of illness the prevention and treatment of sickness healing processes the social relations of medical anthropology operates as a focal area within anthropology that draws on all five of the discipline s major subfields biological cultural and linguistic anthropology archeology and applied or engaged anthropology the department of anthropology offers an m a in anthropology with a specialty in medical anthropology the program is intended to provide a basic education in medical anthropology for physicians or other health professionals who have clinical work experience and prior graduate work the body in medical anthropology ian harper university of edinburgh doi doi org 10 22582 am v3il 156 html issue vol 3 no 1 2001 anthropology matters journal section bibliographies license anthropology matters uses the attribution noncommercial noderivatives 4 0 international cc by nc nd 4 0 license medical anthropology studies how societies construct understandings of health and illness including medical treatments for all types of maladies culture affects how we perceive everything including health medical anthropology sits at the intersection of the humanities social sciences and biological sciences seeking to transform our understanding of what matters for people in terms of health and wellbeing some popular topics that are covered by medical anthropology are mental health sexual health pregnancy and birth aging addiction nutrition disabilities infectious disease non communicable diseases ncds global epidemics disaster management and more medical anthropology is the study of how health and illness are shaped experienced and understood in light of global historical and political forces those who concentrate in medical anthropology global health craft innovative solutions to global health problems and they learn to re imagine health systems and governance through a more responsive and person centered approach this article has focused on the changes that have occurred in medical anthropology and the anthropology of public health that allow it to be a modern and significant contributing discipline to public health policy development the aim of this article is two fold to discuss the appropriateness of kap surveys in understanding and exploring health related knowledge attitudes and practices and to describe some of the major challenges encountered in planning and conducting a kap survey in a specific setting kleinman is professor of medical anthropology in the department of global health and social medicine and professor of psychiatry at harvard medical school

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