

Thesis Title Lay Concepts of Illness and Health
 Seeking Behavior
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ABSTRACT

The major objective of this study is to analyse popular or lay concept of illness which the emphasis is placed on their perception on symptom definition, etiology and treatment. The study is a village case-study. Depth-interview and observation are main data collection methods. Traditional doctors and other key informants and 20 purposively selected households are two main studied samples. Information from the first sample was use to make community profile an general impression on people's medical beliefs and experiences. Then, household depth-interview and observation were carried out to collect qualitative data on their beliefs and actual practices.

The results come up with twenty six illnesses which can be later classified into 4 age and sex specific groups. On the basis these reported illnesses, it is, then, etiologically classified into 6 groups of disease causation. They are bodily

weakness, physiological dysfunction, germ, nature, supernature and soul lose. However, it is found that lay people always actually explain their illness causation with more than one cause. Importantly, variety of medical beliefs is seemed being mixed up in lay people etiological concept without any contradictory realization.

In term of treatment practices, self-care particularly with modern pharmaceuticals is found the predominant practices. Herbal drugs use is only found in some specific families and illnesses. According to medical resort, people differently perceive them as traditional and modern which their efficacy specifically suitable to different kinds of illness.