"Health, Family & Quality of Life" Programme

A. Family adaptation to illness: An overview
B. Psychosocial implications of chronic health conditions
C. Couples and breast cancer: Theoretical and research issues
D. Family and Chronic Health Conditions in Childhood
E. Assessment of couples and family relationships: Implications for research
F. QoL in children and adolescents: Concepts, methods and applications

I. Contents

A- Family adaptation to illness: An overview
1. Chronic health conditions: Social and psychological impact and family issues
2. Illness as an adversity: Different pathways for (in)adaptation
3. Determinants of the adaptation to illness: An ecological perspective
4. Models of family adaptation to illness
   a) The ABC-X Family Crisis Model (Hill, 1949, 1958)
   c) The Double ABC-X Model (McCubbin & Patterson, 1993)

B- Psychosocial implications of chronic health conditions
1. Family models of adaptation to the chronic health conditions
   a) The triangulation model of Doherty and Baird (1983)
   b) The circle of health and disease of Doherty and Campbell (1988)
   c) The psychosocial typology of Rolland (1994)
2. Couples and families coping with chronic health conditions
   a) Definition, functions, and structure of coping
   b) Assessment of coping: individual, dyadic, and familiar
3. Resilience in the chronic health condition experience
   a) Definition of resilience: Individual, couple and family resilience
b) Assessment of resilience

c) Strengthening couples and families' resilience

B. Couples and breast cancer: Theoretical and research issues

1. Breast cancer and individual adjustment: The adjustment process along the disease's pathway
2. Breast cancer and couples: The impact of breast cancer on couple relationship
3. The partner as a source of social support
   3.1. Taxonomies of social support
   3.2. Partner's unsupportive behaviors
4. Research issues
   4.1. Research steps: an example of an investigation with breast cancer patients
   4.2. Ethical issues in psychological research

C. Family and Chronic Health Conditions in Childhood

1. Theoretical models of adaptation to chronic health
   1.1. Overview of the models\(\text{a) Social-Ecological Model of Adaptation and Challenge (Kazak, 1986; 1989); (b) Disability Stress Coping Model (Wallander & Varni, 1988; 1992); (c) Transactional Stress and Coping Model (Thompson et. al., 1992, 1994)\)
   1.2. The specific context of asthma: The Transactional Model by Arnold Sameroff and Barbara Fiese (1975; 2008; 2009)
2. Psychological adaptation to chronic health conditions in childhood. Research findings on:
   a) Family adaptation
   b) Parents' adaptation
   c) Children's adaptation
3. Parenthood in the context of chronic health conditions in childhood:
   a) “Parents & Caregivers”: Parents and their role as their children's main informal caregivers
   b) “Caregiver burden”: Definition, assessment, and research findings

II. Teaching Methods

Lecture/expository method
Presentation of examples/case studies
Papers' discussions
Small group tasks and discussion
III. Assessment

- Guided analysis of a scientific article (Part A: Classroom task)
- Relating the class contents with a scientific article (Part B: Homework assignment)

IV References

A. Family adaptation to illness: An overview


B. Families, couples and chronic health conditions


C. Couples and breast cancer: Theoretical and research issues


D. Family and Chronic Health Conditions in Childhood


