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Reading/ composition

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Comparison Between Biomedical Model and Humanistic Model

These days, we have many medical choices of treatment when we are sick or injured our body parts. In the many treatments, biomedical model and humanistic model are common medical knowledge within many countries. However, patients have to find out the most efficient methods for them when they have problems with the body because both methods have some different characteristics and advantages. Therefore, this essay will focus on comparison between biomedical model and humanistic model, including beliefs and relationship between physicians and patients.

First, both biomedical model and humanistic model have different beliefs or philosophy. In the biomedical model of medicine, a person is considered like a machine which is composed of individual parts. Thus, when we break our body parts, biomedical physician can fix or replace by new parts. Therefore, most important thing in the process of treatment in this model is to find the diseased body parts, and then to choose the most effective treatment to cure the patient's emotion from the physician. Moreover, physicians in the biomedical model have to select the best treatment based on statistical data obtained from

clinical studies. That is why, the physician is considered as “mechanic or technician” (Williams, 2012). On the other hand, humanistic model of medicine is focused on not only broken parts but also whole person. It means that the patient is recognized as a person that is composed of body and mind. The reason is that the physician thinks mind and body sometimes influences each other. For example, if we have much stress because of busyness, some problems will occur with our body. Also, the physician will examine the patient with empathy or emotion, and also the patients will be cured by using the traditional medical therapy. Thus, using the non-traditional therapy like latest medical technique is last way in this model. To sum up, both models have different beliefs because biomedical model focuses on only healing the diseased or injured parts, but a humanistic physician cures both diseased parts and also the mind.

Second, the relationship between patients and physicians is different from each other. According to LEAP, in the biomedical model, “the physicians are the authority figure with the knowledge and power to save patients” (Williams, 2012). The reason is that the physician’s relationship to patients is active, but the patient is passive because the patients are simply diagnosed by doctors, and there is little conversation. That is why, some people regard the doctor as mechanic or technician. However, in the humanistic model, “humanism in

health care is characterized by a respectful and compassionate relationship between physician” (The Arnold P Gold Foundation, n.d.). Therefore, the relation between them is based on empathy, because physicians examine the patients by trying to cure not only their body, but also their mind. Thus, communication is an important process for them to cure and overcome their illness. Therefore, their connection is active compared to the biomedical model. That they respect and participate in the healing process with each other is an important procedure for humanistic model. In brief, the relationship between doctors and patients varies from each other because in the biomedical model, their relationship is like a dominance but in the humanistic model, the relation is more closely, and to communicate with each other is the most significant part.

In conclusion, both models have good features. For instance, while physician of biomedical model diagnoses only diseased or damaged parts, humanistic model’s doctors focuses on the body and also the patient’s mind. Thus, the relation between physicians and patients differ from each other like patients is active in the humanistic model, but in the biomedical model, they are simply passive toward the doctors. For these reasons, we have to choose the most effective and useful model for us. However, patients have each different illnesses and conditions. Therefore, I think which method we should choose depends on the

person.

References

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