

Chapter 10 Cross-cultural psychiatry

CLINICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

In psychiatric diagnosis

- 1 Which of the following influences on the diagnostician may affect the validity of *psychiatric diagnoses*:
 - a cultural factors?
 - b social factors?
 - c moral attitudes?
 - d political pressures?

In cross-cultural diagnosis

- 2 In the patient's socio-cultural background, what are the definitions of *normal* and *abnormal* social behaviour?
- 3 Are the patient's beliefs and/or behaviour *abnormal* by the standards of the community? If they are, is it 'controlled' or 'uncontrolled' abnormality?
- 4 Do the patient's family and/or friends regard his/ her abnormality as beneficial or dangerous to them (or to the wider community)?
- 5 Are the specific clusters of symptoms and signs interpreted by the patient (or by family and friends) as evidence of a *culture-bound psychological disorder*?
- 6 Is the clinical presentation of the disorder shaped by cultural factors into a culture-bound disorder (such as *susto* or somatization)?
- 7 What role do cultural factors play in the *aetiology* of the disorder?

In cross-cultural treatment

- 8 Is the *illness* of the mental disorder being treated, as well as the *disease*?
- 9 Should the patient's family and/or friends be asked to take part in the treatment process?
- 10 Should a folk healer, priest or exorcist be used by the patient (and/or family) as a complementary form of treatment?
- 11 What could such healers provide that Western psychiatrists cannot?

In symbolic healing

- 12 What are its *effects* on the patient's:
 - a psychological state?
 - b physical state?
 - c social relationships?
 - d socio-economic status?

In family therapy

- 13 Are the *family dynamics* evidence of:
 - a cultural costume?
 - b cultural camouflage?
- 14 In what ways are the structure and dynamics of the family the result of:
 - a psychopathology?
 - b cultural background?
 - c economic status?
 - d external social pressures?