

Exploring The Intersection Of Social Work, Dentistry, And Health Administration Towards Holistic Healthcare Solutions

Majed Aesh Samih Alnefaie¹ Ibrahim Ahmed Al-Humidi² Faiz
Faisal Fahad Alshammari³ Mohammed Mohammed melwah
Alanzi⁴ Ahmad Abdulaziz Aldusari⁵ Abdulrahman Mohammad Bin
Bossayes⁶ Khaled Rashed Alharbi⁷ Badriah Khuleif Alshammry⁸
Fawaz Mohsen Al Raddadi⁹ Hanan Rabeh Saad Alharbi¹⁰
Mohammad Ali Al-Arfagi¹¹

¹ Health Administration and Community Health, Erada and
Mental Health Complex in Taif

² Social worker, Taif Mental Health Hospital

³ Health Management, Hail General Hospital

⁴ General Dentist, East Riyadh Dental complex

⁵ Dentist, East Riyadh Dental Center

⁶ Dentist, East of Riyadh Dental Center - Riyadh Second Health
Cluster

⁷ Technician- Dental technology, Hail Dental Centre

⁸ Technical - dental assistant, Dental Administration at Hail health
cluster

⁹ Social Worker, Ministry of Health in Medina

¹⁰ Senior Sociology Specialist, General Directorate of Health
Affairs in Riyadh

¹¹ Health management specialist, General Directorate of Health
Affairs in Asir Region

ABSTRACT

Introduction: The notion of "holism" in healthcare sciences develops in tandem with medical progress, technical developments, social transformations, and political fluctuations. The current paradigm is changing this idea, including a wide healthcare ecosystem with networked experts. To achieve unity and consistency, it is necessary to establish a common basis for conceptual communication. Every field of study has its own distinct lexicon and structure, which mirrors the diverse range of disciplines within contemporary healthcare.

Aim of work: To explore the intersection of social work, dentistry, and health administration towards holistic healthcare solutions.

Methods: Using the following search keywords, we performed a thorough search of the electronic literature in the MEDLINE database: Social Work, Dentistry, Health Administration, Holistic Healthcare. To find relevant literature, the search was limited to articles from 2015 to 2021. We looked through scholarly articles related to my topic by doing a search on Google Scholar. Certain inclusion criteria influenced the articles that were chosen.

Results: The study's analysis included papers that were published between 2015 and 2021. The research was divided up into several parts, each having a header for the discussion portion.

Conclusion: Holistic health is an approach to life that considers multidimensional aspects of wellness. It encourages individuals to recognize the whole person: physical, mental, emotional, social, intellectual, and spiritual. In conclusion, social work is becoming more visible and integral to healthcare, addressing the social determinants of health and promoting collaboration among various professions. Holistic dentistry offers a more comprehensive and conservative approach to dental treatment, focusing on patient involvement, sensitivity, and the best organic or holistic options.

Keywords: Social Work, Dentistry, Health Administration, Holistic Healthcare.

INTRODUCTION

Important concepts like holism that are used in the healthcare sciences are interpreted and understood differently in response to developments in technology, socioeconomic conditions, political dynamics, and global society. These shifts can be seen as a gradual evolution of concepts, impacted by the concept's applicability in clinical settings, improvements and adjustments made to related theories by scientific research, and the collective knowledge of professionals at educational institutions and educational events such as conferences or seminars. Today's healthcare system is evolving the concept of holism (Vogt et al., 2016).

The healthcare sector has a broad network of professionals, each with specific functions, responsibilities, and connections across several organizational levels and divisions. A shared conceptual communication base is necessary to provide coherence, uniformity, and harmony in the goals, methods, and evaluation of care. Each academic profession has its own distinct vocabulary and concepts that change according to the discipline's particular focus, interests, and external circumstances (Karam et al., 2018). Several disciplinary traditions produce healthcare practitioners. Through practical experience, these traditions help professionals develop their cognitive knowledge and comprehension, which in turn shapes their attitudes, behaviors, and understanding of their roles and responsibilities (Liberati et al., 2016).

Holism, originating from the Greek word *holos* meaning whole, has been a central concept in health since ancient Greece. It emphasizes the integration of physical and mental aspects of health, with Aristotle later introducing the idea of dualism and the separation of physical and mental well-being. Descartes' 17th-century belief that the body functions separately from the soul led to the development of medical sciences, which specialized in studying the human body (McMillan et al., 2018). This led to the creation of new concepts such as diagnoses, treatments, and rehabilitations, which were classified into groups to improve understanding of human bodily existence in biomedicine (Fan, 2017).

However, this narrow focus on specialized fields has led to a narrower view of human beings, sometimes objectifying them. This contradicts the value-laden principle of holism, which has been reintroduced in healthcare as a humanistic principle, valuing human value and lives. Humanist professionals from medical fields and other healthcare science fields, such as nursing and physiotherapy, advocate for holism conceptualization through a humanistic perspective, promoting professionals' awareness of their relational approach to patients.

In nursing, Dr. Martha E. Rogers emphasized the importance of viewing the patient as a whole human being with inherent pandimensional parts, including mind, body, soul, time, space, energy fields, and being at one with their environment and the universe (Wisneski and Thornton, 2017). Holism advances the belief that a human being is more than the sum of their parts, and

its semantic definition has been applied in many fields, including architecture, engineering, astronomy, and material sciences (Vogt et al., 2016). Human beings are not separated from the complex healthcare environment, which encompasses abstract realities such as communication, organizational systems, and governing politics.

Aim of work:

To explore the intersection of social work, dentistry, and health administration towards holistic healthcare

METHODS

We performed a thorough search using particular keywords like Social Work, Dentistry, Health Administration, Holistic Healthcare, on reputable scientific platforms like Pubmed and Google Scholar.

The goal was to include every relevant study articles. A set of criteria was used to choose the articles. After a thorough examination of the noteworthy titles and abstracts of every publication, we excluded case studies, duplicate papers, and publications without complete information. The research's reviews were published between 2015 and 2021.

RESULTS

The current investigation concentrated on the intersection of social work, dentistry, and health administration towards holistic healthcare between 2015 and 2021. As a result, the review was published under many headlines in the discussion area, including: Holism as a disciplinary aim, intervention and/or a process, Role of social work in holistic healthcare, Role of dentistry in holistic healthcare, Healthcare administration in Holistic Healthcare Solutions.

DISCUSSION

1. Holism as a disciplinary aim, intervention and/or a process

The notion of holism in healthcare is a strategy that emphasizes the interdependence of many human needs, such as physiological, safety, love and belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization. It is located inside the patient and encompasses their whole requirements, whether or not considering the underlying

fundamental features of a human person. The objectives are to satisfy specific demands that have been clearly established within a disciplinary domain (Huljev and Pandak, 2016).

Physicians may regard a reductionist approach to care, which focuses on identifying the underlying cause and treating the ailment, as a holistic approach to care in its most restricted definition. Holism in nutritional science is associated with the assessment of the value of food functions and the reduction in value of food ingredients for the human body. Professionals in disciplines such as psychology, pharmacy, nutritional physiology, medicine, nursing, and physiotherapy recognize the importance of addressing the interconnected needs of the mind, body, and/or soul in holistic healthcare. This approach requires a combination of specialized knowledge and skills from various fields (Gordon, 2019).

Healthcare holism is the process of moving from the holistic reality of the patient as a human being to the aggregation of professionals' contributing abilities in order to provide comprehensive healthcare. The idea of holism's location or propriety was seen as transitioning from the human individual requiring assistance to the physical realm of healthcare, hence highlighting the intangible gap or separation between human needs and healthcare intervention (Hastings, 2019).

Professionals from many disciplines are increasingly collaborating due to their recognition of the limits of their own perspectives in addressing the whole needs of individuals. Collaboration is a procedure including the sharing of resources, forming partnerships, relying on each other, and distributing authority that goes beyond professional limits. The process of interaction between healthcare personnel and patients is resource-intensive, requiring significant amounts of space, time, and energy (Lillrank, 2018).

Frisch and Rabinowitsch propose that holism refers to the integration of many disciplines, enabling collaborative involvement and the acknowledgment of shared objectives. The collaborative objectives include safeguarding, well-being, and nurturing. Nevertheless, the level of cooperation across different fields of study is insufficient to attain a holistic approach. One's disciplinary background influences their professional knowledge and skills, and professional viewpoints within an institutional platform and hierarchy are controlled. Practitioners, teachers, and scholars in a certain field carry out their duties with a restricted

understanding, curiosity, drive, and accountability for ensuring the comprehensive integration of healthcare (Frisch and Rabinowitsch, 2019).

2. Role of social work in holistic healthcare

Essentially, social work involves examining a patient, independent of the healthcare environment, from a comprehensive perspective. That implies they go beyond diagnosing and evaluating a patient's bodily well-being to also include their psychological, social, and spiritual well-being. Social workers consider the influence of a chronic health condition on a patient's psychological well-being, as well as the reciprocal effect of their emotional well-being on their physical health. The objective is to verify that a patient receives the necessary social and emotional assistance to successfully adhere to their treatment programs (Lee et al., 2018).

The social worker in the health care team is tasked with conducting a comprehensive biopsychosocial spiritual evaluation in order to get a deeper understanding of the patient's capabilities that may be used to assist the treatment plan. For instance, while providing care for a diabetic patient who is homeless or at danger of homelessness, which is the primary focus of my experience, the social worker inquires about the availability of relatives or friends who can assist with refrigerating the patient's insulin. If not, may we assist with mediation or reconciliation to aid the patient in restoring their social network. As social workers, we do a comprehensive assessment of the individual, taking into consideration all aspects of their well-being, rather than only focusing on their medical condition (Hodge, 2015).

The "essential" function of social work is based on a deep comprehension of the social inequalities that impact clinical and social results. Social Work incorporates a grasp of the influence of institutional racism and the unequal access to care and treatment, which hinders at-risk groups from effectively addressing the severe consequences of the Covid-19 epidemic. Social Work must play a crucial role in promoting emotional health and wellbeing by not only establishing connections between persons and resources, but also by comprehensively comprehending the underlying factors that drive these demands (Drisko and Grady, 2019). Social workers, both on a personal and professional level, work together with their

clients to eliminate obstacles and promote equality. Amidst this epidemic, the front line social worker is confronted with the daunting task of navigating through inadequate and unfair health systems. They must use innovative and imaginative approaches to address the obstacles faced by patients, taking into account culturally influenced health issues that put them at risk. A significant number of these groups have experienced marginalization as a result of the pandemic, or their existing marginalization may have been intensified by the devastating impact of the Corvid virus (Ly, 2021). These adverse outcomes have materialized as difficulties in meeting fundamental requirements, such as unemployment and reduced income, lack of access to medicines, homelessness, and insufficient food supply. In line with the holistic approach, Social Workers are also recognizing chances to assist people and families affected by mental and emotional health problems, such as marital abuse and rising cases of depression due to prolonged isolation and quarantine. These are not the appropriate times for elaborate social progress initiatives. Instead, it is crucial to focus on grassroots food contributions, providing grants to cover the electricity bills of patients who rely on nebulizers at home, and making community investments in clean water and transportation. The need for Social Work to be accessible, committed, engaged, and altruistic is inherently comprehended (Garbarino, 2017).

The significance of Social Work in fostering the emotional and mental well-being of communities and people cannot be underestimated. The relationship between nutrition, housing, and personal safety in exacerbating the vulnerability to mental health disorders is worth considering (Shea, 2016). Social workers, in their capacity within community organizations (both governmental and non-governmental), as well as in the fields of health, mental health, and substance use and recovery, have a growing significance in conducting comprehensive biopsychosocial assessments. These assessments are essential for gaining a thorough understanding of an individual's needs and are centered around the person as a whole. Utilizing this comprehensive assessment as a starting point to include the person in establishing objectives and developing a course of action is the first phase for several individuals in attaining emotional well-being. Social workers also serve as advocates for equality and the rights of vulnerable groups who face discrimination, harassment, and

violence, such as minority or immigrant communities. These folks may experience substantial psychological anguish and encounter physical obstacles. Social workers promote their cause by advocating for knowledge and empowering individuals to take control of their own lives. Social workers play a crucial role in advancing mental health and well-being by adhering to Ida Cannon's principles, using a comprehensive strategy that considers all aspects of an individual, and eliminating obstacles that hinder optimum health, quality of life, and emotional well-being (Perriam, 2015).

3. Role of dentistry in holistic healthcare

Holistic dentistry, often known as HD, takes into account the impact of dental health on the whole body. The holistic dentist views the mouth cavity as an interconnected ecosystem that is closely linked to the patient's complete body. While not officially recognized as a dental specialty, this discipline is more accurately described as a philosophy. Patients and practitioners may refer to it as biocompatible, conservative, biological, integrative, modern, biomimetic, or natural dentistry. Therefore, the degree to which it is practiced differs among practitioners. Recently, there has been an increase in the popularity of HD among dentists and patients who are interested in a more natural and conservative approach (Hegde et al., 2015).

Holistic dentistry is an advanced and progressive branch of medicine that works alongside conventional dentistry and is seen as a more extensive approach to general dentistry. Endorsed by reputable organizations such as the Holistic Dental Association, International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, International Academy of Biological Dentistry and Medicine, and American Academy for Oral Systemic Health, this initiative aims to enhance interdisciplinary healthcare by raising awareness of the connection between oral health and overall well-being (Hegde et al., 2015).

The dental treatment provided by a holistic dentist (HD) is tailored to the patient's specific clinical symptoms and general health problems. Holistic dentistry incorporates patients' active participation in their treatment plan and empowers them to make independent decisions about their dental health. The HD examines the causes and most appropriate treatment approach for dental

caries, taking into account factors such as food, oral pH, cleanliness, brushing practices, and brushing aids that are most suitable for the patient's requirements. In addition, they may recommend books, natural products, or other resources that are specially tailored to meet the needs of individual patients (Abed et al., 2015).

After doing scaling, root planing, and maybe prescribing a medicated mouthwash, a holistic dentist gives verbal advice for periodontitis treatment. In addition, they explore topics such as nutrition, specialized therapies, analysis of saliva samples, ozone therapy, and other supplementary methods. This comprehensive strategy leads to improved long-term performance and reduced total pocket depths (Teixeira, 2019).

Holistic dentists exhibit a greater level of caution compared to conventional dental institutions, as they provide patients with comprehensive knowledge about early-stage dental problems, their specific location, and a treatment strategy to prevent any further advancement. Their strategy involves using biomimetic methods and adhesive dental procedures to conservatively remove tooth structure, while also preventing any damage to the nerves and promoting the long-term health of the tooth. Patients have the autonomy to be involved in making choices about their dental care therapy (Teixeira, 2019).

4. Healthcare administration in Holistic Healthcare Solutions

Integrative health techniques have shown promising advantages in enhancing well-being, promoting health, and preventing diseases. These methods prioritize lifestyle adjustments, alterations in behavior, and the reduction of stress. These treatments are essential for identifying patients who are at risk, employing a systems medicine approach. According to national survey statistics, a greater number of individuals use complementary techniques for the purpose of enhancing overall health and well-being, rather than for the treatment of particular disorders. According to the 2012 National Health Interview Survey, the majority of individuals who practiced yoga (94%) and utilized natural product supplements (89%) did so for reasons associated with their overall well-being. However, only a tiny percentage of people employed these techniques specifically to cure a particular ailment (Burke et al., 2017).

Holism is founded on the notion that the whole surpasses the mere sum of its individual components. In order to comprehend a system, it is necessary to have a comprehensive understanding of not just each individual constituent, but also to acknowledge the time-dependent, interdependent connections between these constituents. The periods that establish the continuous state of well-being and the shift towards illness provide a valuable structure for this discourse (Woods, 2017). Systems medicine, also known as the systems approach, involves studying the structure and dynamics of interconnected nodes that create networks at various levels of a multidimensional matrix. These frequent, diversified, and time-limited contacts have a crucial role in promoting and maintaining the health, well-being, and prevention of diseases in people by facilitating changes inside the complex body. The primary objective is to identify the most significant nodes that are responsible for various states of being (healthy, at-risk, or diseased). The aim should be to positively influence the network, maintain good health, prevent secondary diseases whenever feasible, and reduce the impact of pathobiology in individuals with the highest susceptibility (Fiandaca et al., 2017).

CONCLUSION

Holistic health is an approach to life that considers multidimensional aspects of wellness. It encourages individuals to recognize the whole person: physical, mental, emotional, social, intellectual, and spiritual. Integrating systems approaches into clinical practice requires exposure to new training programs involving scientists, clinicians, and other providers who embrace holistic care for the whole person (mind, body, and spirit) and incorporate these with information technologies. This integrated, trans-disciplinary approach is seen in the biopsychosocial model of disease, which recognizes dimensions of behavior and social milieu along with biology.

Social work is a holistic approach to patient care, assessing psychological, social, and spiritual health. It focuses on the impact of chronic health disorders on mental wellbeing and emotional health on physical health. Social workers are important members of the healthcare team, as they conduct biopsychosocial spiritual assessments to understand a patient's strengths and support their treatment plans.

In healthcare, social workers are increasingly seen as a core part of the team, addressing social determinants of health. They are now directly involved in patient care from the beginning, helping drive treatment plans and improving patient outcomes. The education landscape for social workers to work on health care teams has changed, with more interprofessional education taking place. Institutions are bringing health sciences students together to learn about each other's professions and perspectives on patient care.

The challenges for expanding the role of social workers in a healthcare setting include understanding their role, breaking down silos, and building their own power and presence on the team. Social workers are used to being collaborative, but they have not always been trained to be leaders.

The practice of holistic dentistry is both complex and multifunctional. Due to its comprehensive nature, it takes more education and mentorship after dental school to understand a biologic approach to dentistry. A number of these philosophies and techniques are not addressed in US dental school curricula. Patients are now demanding more natural alternatives to traditional medical and dental models due to online information access, making these philosophies more pivotal than ever for traditional dentists to acknowledge and embrace modern dentistry.

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