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Section B

Impact on Mental Health

What Does Culture Impact?

- Expression, experience, and meaning associated with ill-health
- Psychological distress and trauma have social and cultural associations
- Differences in cause and treatment—based on conceptualization and meaning
- Definition of function and impairment
 - Self, family, community

Models of Health

- Western dichotomy
 - Physical realm (body)
 - Psychological realm (mind)
- Holistic approach
 - No separation
 - Mind influences body and vice-versa
 - Burkina Faso: ill-health as an event that marks an alternation in the normal course of life

Mozambique Example

- Ill health denotes disequilibrium with ...
 - Environment
 - Spirit world
 - Other beings
- Causes associated with malevolent forces
- Balance kept by complex set of rules and practices governing society
- Individual as part of collective

Culture and Dementia

- Cultural perspective on seniority and affliction
- Unclear boundaries between normal and abnormal cognitive functioning
- Medicalization put cognitive decline into medical realm
- Alternatively, part of normal aging and remains in the realm of family
- Potential differences in stigma
 - Individual
 - Family

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