

6. PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS, MOTIVATION AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

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Personality Development, Scientific Training and the Selection of Future Doctors

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(Abstract)

In an empirical study on achievement in medical education, scores on personality questionnaires, intelligence tests, and other individual characteristics of two groups of students were assembled as potential predictors of success in medical training.

In a parallel research program on stress in medical education, first and fourth year students, and male and female students were compared. The results of both projects will be discussed in relation to personality development, scientific training and the selection of future doctors.

History Taking Groups: Focussing on the Person

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(Abstract)

It is unfortunately often the case in medicine today that the doctor is only interested in the patient's illness and not in the patient as a person. His or her needs are ignored and even regarded as an inconvenience.

Medical training is little concerned with fostering the ability to confront and enter into a relationship with the patient. The idea of working as part of a team is also neglected. The student is left to his or her own devices. This state of affairs gave rise to the creation of the Anamnese gruppen (history taking groups). They present a forum for the students to have contact with patient-centred medicine.

Each participant of the group holds an interview with a patient and tries to develop a positive relationship with him/her. Later the students discuss the interview in the group. The patient with his/her illness, rather than just the illness itself becomes the main subject.

This so-called biographical history-taking is not part of the curriculum in German medical schools. Therefore, these self-help peer groups are for many students the only opportunity to learn the practical aspects of this concept.