

Social Work Practice with Chronic Illness : The Feature of Chronic Illness as Life Stressor

ABSTRACT

In this article, the author explores the feature of chronic illness as life stressor, based on the stress—coping theory that R. S. Lazarus has proposed. Chronic illness is one of the life stressors because it may cause not only physical dysfunction, but also psychological problems, family conflict, and other dysfunctions in a patient's life. Such stresses continue for a long time, as chronic illness is not cured. Therefore the stress aroused by chronic illness is continuous and chronic.

From such a point of view, the author reviews the literature related to chronic stress, and discusses psychosocial aspects of the chronic illness patient.

Key Words: social work, chronic illness, chronic stress