Daily relevance of health for female adolescents with Turkish migration background

First results from an ethnographical health study

Zeynep Islertas\ Uwe H. Bittlingmayer
University of Education Freiburg

There is plenty of evidence about the relationship between health outcomes and the socioeconomic and educational status, gender and migration background. Socio-economic and educational underprivileged adolescents with or without migration background are particularly considered as a vulnerable group. However, it is much easier to explain dependencies between socio-economic and educational determinants and health outcomes than between migration background, health inequalities and health outcomes. Traditionally, in social epidemiology research the impact of migration background is neglected and explained by the lower economic status of migrant populations. From our perspective, social epidemiology fails systematically in explaining different health outcomes of people with migration background. In Germany, studies which investigate the role of cultural, religious or other attitudes and practices for on everyday life, health outcomes and health inequalities are still rare. This research gap is the starting point of the ethnographically based project “ELMi” [e-Health Literacy and Minority Health], which is part of the BMBF-consortium Health Literacy of Children and Adolescence (2015-2018). In ELMi it’s aimed to make a thick description of the dialectic of (possible) cultural differences, available resources for action and health behavior through the means of field study in which female adolescents with Turkish migration background are accompanied in daily life. In the intended contribution – next to a plea for strengthening perspectives of health ethnography – first research results will be presented.