The present study is a brief review of the studies on sociology of medicine in India. A number of studies on this theme have been conducted by social scientists, particularly by the sociologists and social anthropologists. A trend report was written by a couple of years back by Anice A. Ahluwalia for the Indian Council of Social Science Research. However, this study covers a period upto 1972. It was felt that a fresh analytical study was needed to take into account new concepts, approaches and facts produced in medical sociology.

We have critically reviewed not only the studies of relations between doctors and patients, doctors and other medical staff and hospitals as a social system, but have examined the functional and dialectical approaches in addition to the approaches advanced by Illich and Djurfeldt and Lindberg. In view of the limitations of these approaches and the historicity of Indian society, we have made a case for structural historical approach for studying the phenomena of disease, treatment and their relations to society.
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