

LESSON 12

DOMAINS OF DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

As a child we indulge in play activities, but as we reach adulthood, our activities change. This is because we are in different periods of life which are called stages. Human life proceeds through different stages.

Developmental Tasks

Each life stage is characterized by a dominant feature, a leading characteristic which gives the period its uniqueness.

Developmental tasks are social expectations of a particular age. Havighurst was the first developmental psychologist to identify the developmental tasks of different age groups. Developmental tasks from birth-12 years-

Birth to 6 years	6-12 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•walk•talk•consumes solid food•controls excretion•learn gender differences•learn difference between wrong and right	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•physical skills for simple games•get along with agemates•learns gender roles•basic reading, writing skills•develop basic concepts•independence in daily activities•morality and values

Stages of Development

Prenatal Period

- When the child is in the mother's womb the particular period spent there is known as prenatal period

Infancy (0-3 years)

- Growth in size is rapid and acquisition of motor skills like holding things, crawling, walking proceeds from simple to complex.

Pre-school (3-6 years)

- Children improve eye, hand and small muscle coordination and language also develops rapidly. They become independent in some routine activities such as – buttoning a shirt.

School (6-12 years)

- Children exhibit rapid gains in strength and swiftness, achieve new motor skills. Their competence becomes more pronounced in all areas.

Adolescence (12-20 years)

- This stage begins at puberty. It is a period of rapid physiological growth. There are a number of psychological changes which also take place.

Adulthood (20-65 years and above)

- Strength and energy characterize this stage. In the mid-twenties most bodily functions are fully developed, until about the age of 50, a gradual decline in energy level.

Aspects or Areas of Development

At each stage, development takes place in various areas or domain simultaneously. Development in the respective areas during different stages is discussed under the following aspects:

Physical development - it is about the physique. E.g. – height, weight.

Babies grow very rapidly in size during their first three years (**Infancy**). Even the proportions of their bodies change markedly.

During the **preschool** years children's height no longer increases as rapidly as during infancy.

School children (**Middle childhood**) between the age of 6 to 12 look very different from their preschool brothers and sisters. They are much taller and thinner.

Adolescence is that stage of rapid physiological growth when reproductive functions and primary sex organs mature, and when the secondary sex characteristics appear.

Strength and energy are at its peak during the age range 20-50 years (**adulthood**) and declines from this peak are so gradual that they are hardly noticed.

After the age of 65, **old age** sets in and it is marked by physical debilitation and loss of agility.

Motor Development–it is about the muscular development and coordination.

There is a definite order for acquiring motor skills, proceeding from the simple to the complex.

Major milestones of motor development

- Head Control - 1 month
- Sitting without support - 7 months
- Rolling over - 5 months
- prewalking locomotion - 9-10 months
- Standing - 13-14 months
- Walking with help - 9-11 months
- walking alone - 15 months
- climb - 18 months
- Jump - 20 months
- Manipulation - 15 months

School children keep getting stronger, faster, and attain better coordination as they achieve new motor skills.

From young adulthood through the middle years, biological changes do take place but are so slow that they are hardly noticed till the age of 50 or 55.

Cognitive Development – it is about mental growth and intellectual development.

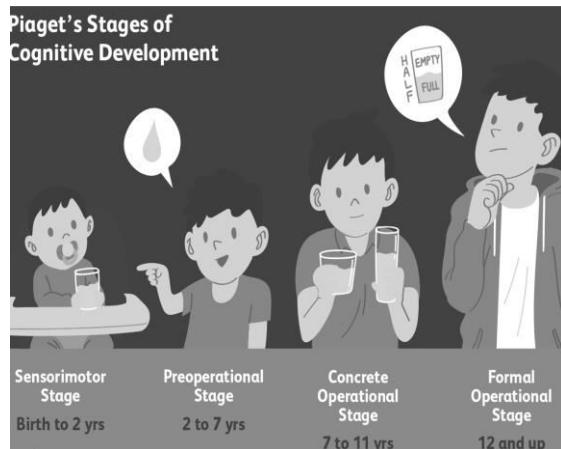
According to **Piaget**, the mind has structures called '**schema**'. It is an abstract representation of the original elements in an object.

Schemata (plural of schema) are intellectual structures that organize events as they are perceived by the organism into groups according to common characteristics.

Cognitive development is influenced throughout by two general principles:

- 1) **Organization** – it involves the integration of all processes into one overall system.
- 2) **Adaptation** – through adaptation children create new structures. It involves both-
 - **Assimilation** – is the taking in of a new object, experience or concept into an existing set of schemata.
 - **Accommodation** – The process by which children change their actions to manage new objects and situations is called accommodation.

The state of balance between assimilation and accommodation is called **equilibrium**.



Moral Development - Moral development deals with the development of ethics or ethical norms, values, the conscience and the ability to judge an act morally.

Piaget described two stages of moral development where children's conception of rules,

intentionality, punishment and justice move from rigid to flexible thinking. This change is a sign of cognitive development.

Language development – it is about the way children learn language, and the age at which they acquire different components of language.

Stages of Language Development		age
1. Crying		Birth
2. Cooing		6 weeks
3. Babbling		6 months
4. Intonation patterns		8 months
5. One-word utterances		1 year
6. Two-words utterances		18 months
7. Inflectional words		2 years
8. Negative and Interrogative		2 ¼ years
9. Rare and complex constructions		5 years
10. Mature speech		10 years

Personality Development – it deals with an individual's physique, temperament, traits, abilities, interests, etc., which represent him and give him a sense of identity.

According to Freud, personality structure has three parts—the **id**, the **ego** and the **superego**. In Freudian thought, the human organism goes through several different stages of psychosexual development.

Period	Stages of Psychosexual Development	Personality Traits
Birth to onset of 1 year	ORAL STAGE	Act of dependency and aggressiveness; finds instant gratification
1 year to about 3 to 4 years	ANAL STAGE	Receive primary pleasure; toilet training is being observed
3 to 6 years	PHALLIC STAGE	Instinctual attraction for the opposite-sex parent; Oedipus complex and Electra complex is being observed
6 to 12 stage or the puberty stage	LATENCY STAGE	Increased activity with same sex peers

Freud assumed that the events of infancy and early childhood are

major determinants of adult personality.

Psychosocial Development – it focuses on children's response to the social world. It includes perception of self, others and relationships with others.

Emotional development – it is about different emotions at various stages and how they grow over a period of time. Emotions play an important role in adjustment an individual makes in life.

Evaluate yourself

1. What are the different stages of lifespan development?
2. Discuss the different developmental aspects.
3. What is a developmental task?