DEP 4053

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DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY: THEORIES, METHODS, & MAJOR ISSUES OF DEVELOPMENT

Goals of Developmental Psychologists

➢ To examine the changes in behavior and abilities during development, and to understand/explain why these changes occur.

Development Depends on Three Factors

➢ Developmental potentials provided by the child’s genes.

➢ The child’s developmental history.

➢ Current environmental conditions
   • These 3 factors interact to account for development.

Normality or Norms Means Typical or Average

➢ All norms are flexible.

➢ Normality is actually a range of acceptable behaviors/characteristics.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
EARLY THEORIES OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

➢ **John Locke (1632-1704):** Empiricism - all knowledge comes from experience (“Tabula Rasa”).
   • rewards, punishments, & learning

➢ **Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778):** Nativism - innate processes driving force behind development.
   • inherited potential of children
   • normative patterns of development

➢ **Charles Darwin (1809-1882):** competition for survival, natural selection, evolutionary value of behaviors (ethology)
   • interaction of genes and environment
PIONEERS OF DEV PSYCHOLOGY

➤ **G. Stanley Hall (1844-1924):** Father of child Psychology

➤ **Sigmund Freud (1856-1939):**
  • Psychoanalytic view - stage theorist
  • psychosexual model - drive theory
  • experience during each stage influences development (fixation)

➤ **Erik Erikson (1902-1994):**
  • extension of Freud’s theory
  • psychosocial stages.

PIONEERS OF DEV PSYCHOLOGY

➤ **John B. Watson (1878-1958):**
  • founder of behaviorism
  • Social Learning Theory (Bandura)

➤ **Jean Piaget (1896-1980):**
  • Cognitive development
  • stage theorist - qualitative differences

➤ **John Bowlby (1908-1990):**
  • Adaptational Theory

RESEARCH METHODS FOR STUDYING DEVELOPMENT

➤ **THEORIES**

  • **Role of Theories:**
    • organize existing knowledge
    • explain behavior/observations
    • generate & guide research
RESEARCH METHODS FOR STUDYING DEVELOPMENT

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGNS

- A type of research in which the investigator varies some factors (IVs) and keeps others constant.

- Independent variable

- Dependent variable

- Internal Validity

- External Validity

- Random Assignment vs. Random Selection or Sampling

- Advantages & Disadvantages of Experiments
RESEARCH METHODS FOR STUDYING DEVELOPMENT

- **NONEXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH**
  - Correlational Design
  - Natural Experiment or Quasi Design
  - Naturalistic Observation
  - Survey Research

NONEXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH METHODS

- **Correlational Design**: examine the relationship between variables

- **Correlation coefficient**
  - can range from ________________
  - Number & sign:

- **Advantages:**

- **Disadvantages:**
MAJOR ISSUES IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

➢ **NATURE VS. NURTURE:**
  
  • Interactionist perspective

➢ **EARLY EXPERIENCES VS. CURRENT EXPERIENCES**

➢ **NORMATIVE VS. IDEOGRAPHIC**

➢ **STAGES VS. GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT:**
  
  • Quantitative (continuous) change (environmentalist view)

  • Qualitative (discontinuous) changes: Freud, Erikson & Piaget