

HUMAN NEEDS AND TENDENCIES

OUTLINE:

1. What is humanity?
2. Human needs
3. Human survival
4. What is a tendency?
 - a) General characteristics
 - b) Environment
 - c) Role in human adaptation
5. Various human tendencies
6. Relation between tendencies

DETAILED EXPLANATION:

1. Humanity:

Humanity in general means the entire human race on earth, with qualities that make us human, such as the ability to love and have compassion, and be creative and have feelings.

People might be different, we might be divided by cultures, race, religion, interest, etc, but we are all one.

Maria Montessori's dream was that everyone is ONE and she believed a lot in humanity and wanted peace in the world because she has lived through two world wars.

2. Human needs: Human needs unify us, all humans have needs; they are essential for survival. Needs are classified into two parts:

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| 1) Physical/material needs | 2) Spiritual needs |
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FOOD

LOVE

SHELTER

SECURITY

CLOTHING

AIR

WATER

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Human survival depends on the environment we live in. We can only survive when our essential needs are met, both physical and spiritual.

NEEDS OF THE HUMAN BEING

As humans, we have two kinds of needs; they are physical needs and spiritual needs.

The basic needs are – food, clothing, housing, air, water, these needs are materialistic yet essential for our daily life.

As time passes, we may look for changes and more things, what we have is never enough.

When we look to satisfy our needs in different ways, evolution and discovery of new things happen and we always strive for more and try to modify our needs.

Next is, spiritual needs which is higher than any other need two basic spiritual needs are LOVE AND SECURITY, AND LOVE AND TO BE LOVED.

Every newborn must be the center of attention; it's the basic need for its survival. To be a part of a family or a group gives us a feeling of security.

Montessori says we are an interdependent community, the fact that we need each other to satisfy our needs bring unity and makes us one.

The satisfaction of these needs differ from each community and culture.

The needs have always been the same, but the ways are different, it depends on people and environment.

WHAT IS A TENDENCY?

Tendency is a drift, an inclination, an urge, an instinct or a pull.

Tendencies are an urge to behave in a certain way; it is an inbuilt push from within us, it is within us and it drives us to behave in a certain way.

They are more evident when we study the early age and even new born, they are very common to all human beings, and it is forever with us until we are alive.

It is a subconscious state; we don't know how it works, it totally depends on the environment.

If the child's needs are not met, it will lead to chaos, and are not fully developed, be it physical or spiritual.

Lack of love leads to the child growing without emotions, for ex communication evolves while they are growing up. We need to let the children express freely and also create an impact on the child's personality.

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Animals also have needs, but the difference is they can't work on their environment, they can't modify it like humans, and they just perish. When the environment isn't suitable to us, we modify it according to our needs.

The child is constructing his own personality, when children enter an environment; they become a part of the environment. Montessori calls this "ADAPTATION" which is unique to human being", it is driven by needs and survival.

The ability to modify the environment was called CONQUEST by Montessori.

It's been happening since the early men, we are not satisfied at all, we move towards enhancing the environment.

It is evident from the artifacts they left behind that they kept creating new things, Montessori called the need to beautify as VANITY, Men wanted to share their discoveries and findings, so that it benefits everyone.

"We must be happy and content, but modify and change so that it will benefit and be useful for others.

Tendencies can be called guiding behavior that led human to satisfy their needs.

All people communicate on different levels. Some communicate freely, some shy, children should be given opportunities to explore their tendencies, each of the tendencies are interrelated and work towards their satisfaction.

Tendencies change through stages of life, it's never the same.

VARIOUS HUMAN TENDENCIES

a) Tendency for curiosity

Curiosity is a need to know, it is inept, and it is within us.

It is this curiosity that made early human survive, this is the main reason for the advancement of society, we keep modifying, changing and inventing.

Children are the most curious beings, they keep asking WHY? They have a need to know and are very inquisitive. When a child is curious they go out of their way to discover more.

As the child grows, he gets curious about the surroundings, environment and the relationships between things and about why changes happen. It is because of this curiosity that the child becomes motivated to explore in order to satisfy this curiosity.

b) Tendency to explore

This tendency goes along with curiosity; finding out more about something is called exploration. It is the drive to come out, meet, and learn our environment. Unless we explore

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we can't learn anything and later we try to change it. We explore ideas, concepts, and emotions, will help us understand our world. Obeying this tendency is essential to gaining a basic sense of security; which ultimately can be summed as the knowledge that our environment can and will fulfill our needs. Children explore using their senses; older children use their intellect and imagination

c) Tendency for calculation

It is the ability to judge and make predictions. It is when the mind coordinates logical thinking and expression through precise actions. Maria Montessori says that every human has a mathematical mind. It is with us since we're born, this is how people calculated time in the old days; this is what made early humans move and travel to different places and how civilizations emerged. Calculation is the reason for how we calculated weather, concept of day and night. Even a young baby calculates before taking his first steps. Children have the strong tendency to calculate, it helps them to self judge and evaluate themselves.

d) Tendency for perfection

Perfection is to do something accurately, we all strive for perfection. It is what leads to exactness. Self-perfection is when a human is exploring and striving for things beyond the mundane expectations for everyday life .It's about self satisfaction. In seeking self perfection and mastery of oneself is the highest form of human desire.

We need to keep improving to get better and we need to set benchmarks.

There is no end to perfection; we look for ways to improve ourselves.

In a young child we first notice self-perfection through the act of self-control of sensory and motor by controlling and the will of the body to do what one wants to do.

Civilizations were born because of the need for improvement.

e) Tendency for repetition

Only by repetition, one can be perfect for ex athletes, students they keep repeating until they attain perfection. Practice makes perfect is a good example for repetition. Repetition and exactness are key characteristics of work that are very apparent in children. The adult must provide freedom to repeat activities that require exact movements

f) Tendency for gregariousness

Gregariousness is the tendency for human beings to enjoy the company of others and the need to associate with them in social activities. It is an inept tendency; Gregariousness gives people security, companionship, acceptance, and a sense of belonging. This is a group for creative communication with kids. It can be seen in babies, children want to be around people and interact with them, and they gravitate towards human beings.

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g) Tendency to communicate

This tendency is the ability for humans to understand each other as well as to be understood. Early men used signals, signs to communicate, but eventually out of human effort, language were born, and it is the key to our social life.

It helps us convey our needs, feelings, emotions, ideas, dreams, have discussions, it is vital for humans. It is a powerful tool and a binding factor.

We don't just communicate through words but through music, dance, signs etc

This has brought about the essence of culture.

We solve problems through communication.

h) Tendency for imitation

Often it is said that it's bad to imitate someone, we were always told to be original.

It is good initially because it might help us learn something, eventually we do it in our own style, we gradually create something that is uniquely ours and we finally stop imitating.

We try to imitate people to make ourselves better, little children watch us keenly and imitate us and move on to create what's uniquely theirs and imitation leads to repetition and finally perfection

i) Tendency for work

All human beings are driven to work, we can't sit idle for a long time, and we want to be pro-active. The tendency to work is very unique. The thumb is a special feature for us humans (opposable thumb). Thumb is the one that aids movement.

The ability to stand led to work; it led to changing the environment.

Young children move towards their interest, it leads to manipulation of material and this leads to constructive and purposeful work. Movement and work are related, coordinated movements are unique and special to humans

j) Tendency for order

Tendency to look for patterns, sequence is inept in all humans, we also look for cause and effect, it is a tendency to seek routine, and it sets well in time and pace. The tendency for order helps in the understanding of one's surroundings.

This helps us in planning, and setting a routine. This predictability gives us a sense of security. It's only through this order the early humans would've understood the world because it helps in prediction; it helps in survival, gives surety.

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If there is no order, life becomes chaotic.

Children seek routine and order and through this they find security

As adults we must provide an ordered (prepared) environment with things in a well defined place.

k) Tendency for Orientation

For anything that is new, orientation is important. It is something in which we can understand our position in a certain situation. We try to understand where we are, its inept and necessary for survival, we compare ourselves to everything around us.

It is an important tendency for young children because the world is new to them.

They look to us adults for orientation in the early days and later they move on to things, and move on to finding their place in the abstract world.

Tendencies don't function on their own, they are interrelated, they work together, and they lead to one another for survival and satisfaction of need.

Changes in humanity and civilization came about because of tendencies.

Our role as adults is supporting the tendencies in children and understanding them.

This support can be given from the outside, the child is an individual person and they manifest in different ways, we must give them opportunities to express their urges in a positive way.

We shouldn't be an obstacle, we must let them experience and follow the natural urge.

There is joy in growing up, so we must help them have positive relations and let them become adults who help humanity.

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