

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata

Course: HU3202: Introduction to Psychology

Assignment 4

Adwait Naravane  
19MS151

Please answer all of the following questions. The marks allotted for each are given in brackets. Please type in the answers within the word document; convert to a PDF for the final submission.

1. Critically evaluate Kohlberg's theory of moral development (5).

- Kohlberg's theory of moral development builds on top of Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development to explain the development of moral reasoning.
- Weaknesses:
  - The theory overemphasizes the role of justice in moral development while ignoring factors such as compassion, interpersonal relations, etc.
  - The theory might be biased in favour of more individualistic western societies which focus more on personal liberties than eastern cultures which have a greater focus of maintaining social order and the community.
  - Moral reasoning does not necessarily lead to moral actions.
  - As Kohlberg's theory is a stage theory, it assumes that as people grow they move through the each successive stage. If that were true, people would be consistent in their moral reasonings in accordance with their stage, which has been empirically shown to be not accurate.

Kohlberg's theory, therefore is a good framework to study moral development but has considerable flaws.

## 2. According to Erikson, what are the developmental tasks during adulthood? (5).

Erikson's theory details the following details the following developmental tasks during adulthood.

- **Early adulthood:** The main developmental task is to maintain relationships, especially establishing and sustaining friendships and romantic relations with the ultimate goal of forming a family. Success in this stage leads to an increase in trust in others, warmth and a sense of intimacy (with the partner). Failure leads to loneliness and inability in forming affectionate relationships.
- **Middle adulthood:** The main task involves raising and contributing to one's progeny, the community and society at large. Success leads to a sense of purposefulness while failure leads to a lack of enrichment and dissatisfaction.
- **Late adulthood:** Main task at this stage is to reflect on one's life. If one concludes that their life was meaningful, they develop a sense of integrity and closure. Failure in this stage, leads to a lack of completeness, dissatisfaction with life and despair about facing death.