

7 piaget kohlberg gilligan and others on moral development

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Exploring Moral Development: Kohlberg and Gilligan**

Piaget and Kohlberg's Theories of Moral Development

Psychologists Jean Piaget and Lawrence Kohlberg proposed theories that traced the development of moral reasoning from childhood to adulthood. Piaget focused on cognitive development, while Kohlberg emphasized ethical judgment.

Similarities between Kohlberg and Gilligan's Theories

Both theories suggest that moral development is a gradual process involving stages. They also emphasize the role of cognitive abilities in moral reasoning.

Kohlberg's Moral Development Theory

Kohlberg's theory consists of six stages, each reflecting a different level of ethical judgment:

- Preconventional Level: Individuals obey rules to avoid punishment or gain rewards.
- Conventional Level: Individuals focus on conforming to social norms and expectations.
- Postconventional Level: Individuals develop abstract moral principles based on universal values.

Primary Difference between Kohlberg and Gilligan's Views

Kohlberg believed moral development was universal and based on cognitive abilities. Gilligan, on the other hand, argued that girls and boys develop moral reasoning differently.

Carol Gilligan's Theory of Moral Development

Gilligan's theory, known as the "Ethics of Care," emphasizes the importance of relationships and empathy in moral reasoning. She believed complete moral development occurs in the context of caring for others.

Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development

Piaget proposed four stages of cognitive development, including:

- Sensorimotor Stage (0-2 years): Infants explore the world through senses and actions.
- Preoperational Stage (2-7 years): Children use symbols and develop egocentric thinking.
- Concrete Operational Stage (7-11 years): Children can think logically about concrete objects.
- Formal Operational Stage (11+ years): Adolescents develop abstract reasoning and critical thinking skills.

Moral Development in Girls and Boys

Gilligan suggested that girls and boys may differ with respect to moral development, with girls emphasizing care and relationships while boys focus on rules and justice.

Ethics of Care Theory

The Ethics of Care Theory emphasizes the importance of:

- Caring for others as a primary moral duty
- Recognizing and responding to the needs of others
- Building relationships based on empathy and compassion

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