



Question 6. Discuss the cognitive changes taking place in a developing child.

Answer: Piaget's given four types of stages for cognitive development:

1. Sensorimotor Stage: (Approximate age is of 0-2 years). In this stage infant explores the world by coordinating sensory experiences with physical actions.
2. Preoperational Stage: (Approximate age is of 2-7 years). In this stage symbolic thought develops and helps to expand his/her mental world. There are two features of preoperational stage:
 - Egocentrism (self-focus): children see the world only in terms of their own selves and are not able to appreciate other's point of view.
 - Centration: focusing on a single characteristic or feature for understanding an event e.g. a child may insist on drinking a "big glass" of juice, preferring a tall narrow glass to a short broad one, even though both might be holding the same amount of juice.
3. Concrete Operational Stage: (approximate age is of 7-11 years).
 - It is made up of operations-mental actions that allows the child to do mentally what was done physically before.
 - Concrete operations are also mental actions that are reversible.
 - Concrete operations allow the child to focus on different characteristics and not focus on one aspect of the object.
 - The child can reason logically about concrete events.
 - This helps the child to appreciate that there are different ways of looking at things.
4. Formal Operational Stage: (Approximate age is of 11-15 years). The adolescent can apply logic more abstractly, hypothetical thinking develops.

Question 7. Attachment bonds formed in childhood years have long-term effects. Explain taking examples from daily life.

Answer:

- Attachment bonds formed in childhood years have long term effects because these are notably developed between the parents and children. These bonds determine the level of trust and perception of the world during the formative years of childhood, e.g. a child growing up in a secure family, with sensitive, responsive and affectionate parents will be not them.
- The child will also make decisions in his/her life with the parents and thus, have a good relationship. However, a child who does not have a steady and good relationship with the parents will lack communication.
- Problems of juvenile delinquency are after related to the lack of attachment of an individual towards his/her parents.

Question 8. What is adolescence? Explain the concept of egocentrism.

Answer:

Adolescence: The term adolescence comes from the Latin word "adolescere", meaning "to grow" or "to grow to maturity". The term 'adolescence' includes mental, emotional and social maturity as well as physical maturity.

1. It is the transition period in a person's life between childhood and adulthood.
 2. It has been regarded as a period of rapid change, both biologically and psychologically. Though the physical changes that take place during this stage are universal, the social and psychological dimensions of the adolescent's experiences depend on the cultural context.
 3. It is a time of search for identity. They begin to crave identity and are no longer satisfied to be like their peers in every respect, as they were earlier, e.g. They try to establish themselves as individuals by the use of status symbols in the form of car, clothes and other readily observable material possessions.
 4. Adolescence is the threshold of adulthood they are anxious to shed the stereotype of teenagers and to create the impression that they are adults, e.g. dressing and acting like adults, they start engaging in smoking, drinking, drugs and in sex.
Egocentrism: (self-focus) Children see the world only in terms of their own selves and are not able to appreciate others point of view. The egocentrism of early childhood is especially pronounced in the first year or two before children begin to play with other children-the age of parallel play.
 - Boys tend to be more egocentric than girls, partly because they sense they are often parental favourites and partly because they are given more privileges. While all children tend to be egocentric, there are certain ones whose environment encourage greater egocentrism than is found in the average child of the same age level. Adolescents develop a special kind of egocentrism. According to DAVID ELKIND adolescents develop two components of egocentrism:
 - Imaginary audience
 - Personal fable.
1. Imaginary audience: adolescent's belief that others are as occupied with them as they are about themselves. They imagine that people are always noticing them and observing each and every behaviour of theirs.
 2. Personal fable: it is adolescents sense of uniqueness. It takes them think that no one understands them or their feelings.

Establishment of identity: Adolescence is the stage when primary task is to establish an identity separate from their parents. Identity refers to knowing who am I? what are the commitments and beliefs are.

- In the establishment of identity children may develop conflict with their parents and may develop "Identity Confusion".
- Such adolescents may at one time complain of being 'treated like a baby' whereas on other occasions treated like 'grown ups'.
- This identity crisis involves searching for conformity and sameness in on self and trying to get a clear sense of who am I? where I am going in my life?
Adolescence is a period of storm and stress: It is period of uncertainties occasional loneliness, self doubt, anxiety, conforming to peer pressure and concern about themselves and their future.

Question 9. What are the factors influencing the formation of

identity during adolescence? Support your answer with examples.
Answer: The formation of identity during adolescence is influenced by several factors:

1. The cultural background, family and societal values, ethnic background and socio-economic status all prevail upon the adolescents' search for a place in society.
2. Increased interactions with peers provide them with opportunities for refining their social skills and trying out different social behaviours.
3. Peers and parents are dual forces having major influence on adolescents. Generally parents and peers serve complementary functions and full fill different needs of the adolescents.
4. Vocational commitment is another factor influencing adolescent identity formation.
5. To achieve a sense of identity, children must have an inner assurance that they get this feeling of assurance, they are secure.
e.g. Career counselling in schools offers information regarding appraisal of the students for the formation or search of identity.
e.g. In some cultures freedom is given to the young people to choose an occupation, whereas in certain other cultures the option of making this choice is not given to the children.

Question 10. What are the challenges faced by individuals on entry to adulthood?

Answer: An adult is generally defined as someone who is responsible, mature, self-supporting and well-integrated into society.

- In early adulthood, two major tasks are exploring the possibilities for adult living and developing a stable life structure.
- A transition from dependence to independence should occur.

Career and work:

- Adults get new responsibility at work.
- They have to adjust with new challenging situations.
- There are apprehensions regarding differences, adjustments, proving one's competence and coping with expectations and both employer and self.

Marriage, parenthood and family:

- Adults have to make adjustments while entering a marriage relation and to know their spouse and cope with each others' likes/dislikes. Responsibilities have to be shared if both are working.
- Parenthood is a difficult and stressful transition in young adults. It depends on factors such as number of children in the family, availability of social support, etc.

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