

THEORY OF PSYCHO-MORAL DEVELOPMENT

Theory of psycho-moral development was developed by James Kanindo; a social worker student in 2012 at Kobujoi Institute of Development Studies. He was convinced that the morality of an individual is a prerequisite of another. That at some point an individual tends to conform to other people's characters. When an individual from point A is taken to live at point B, after a number of years, the individual begins to behave in the same manner like those at the new habitat he went to. He's cousin left Kenya to US when he was twenty two. After his studies and stay that took nine years in the US, when he returned to Kenya, he's manner of speech intonation, gestures, and mode of life had completely changed. His psycho-moral behavior had changed drastically. He had developed into another person.

He wanted to know the characters of one of his friends who was married, and how the couple behaved while at home. He invited the couples' children in his house, became a friend to them, and when they joined his family for children plays, through observance, he noticed exactly how his friend and wife acts when at home. The children could easily mimic their parents.

For seven years, James observed the character traits of two completely different families. One family had mature ways of solving their domestic conflicts while the other had violence. The psycho-moral development of children from the two families was different. Those from the violent family grew up violently and the only way they could solve their problems was through arguments or even fights. They were very aggressive, an opposite of the other family. James a certain that for the morality of a child to develop in a healthy manner, parents or guardians must not bit up their children to do what they want them to do, but just be what they want their children to be .Be in them. For most of the children are not use-less but used-less.

The psycho-moral development shows the behavioral methods of people at large. How one grew up, from what society, and from what type of setting .The reaction of each person in life on certain issues differs. Some people hoard anger while others react and burst out. Others are patience with issues while others are quick at judging. James in his theory observed that people react on things according to their on preference .Listening to different callers while on phone, he realized that people's morality differ and depends on the receiver or caller. A lady calling her boyfriend will speak in a soft voice than when speaking to her fellow lady. This also applied to men. Meaning that the psycho-moral development of individuals depended on many things. Those who grew up in a disciplined back-ground were better unless life situations pushed them to act otherwise.

The psycho-moral development allows one to react differently. James said; ***every man is a Hypocrite. That every one carries a bucket of hypocrisy with him.*** That an individual is capable to act or pretend provided the preferred intentions are met. James came up with six different psycho-moral development stages. Diligently bringing out the behavioral methods of each stage and how individuals who get stagnated in one stage, their growth and development are hindered in the next stage.

1. INNOCENT STAGE: 0-3 YEARS:

This is a selfless stage. Very dependant.

Mode of communication is crying, tickling of nose, fidgeting in their positions

They move their limbs and smile when touched and depend on smell and touch to identify their own mothers. While crying, soft taps and voice make them stop.

They need maximum care and when this fails, they develop poor psycho-moral development.

They grow up with low self esteem, less concern for people and themselves. They take negatively any compliments given to them and shy off.

2. CONFORMISM STAGE: 3-8 YEARS:

Most children in this stage begin doing small domestic duties

They begin grouping themselves into cliques for child plays

They take roles and responsibilities. Boys take the roles of their fathers while girls their mothers. A lot of training takes place in this stage. e.g. toilet training, table etiquettes, dressing codes, spirituality, time responsibility and schooling begins. In this stage children conform to all they are told. When all the above fails to take place properly, they mature into very irresponsible citizens. They fail to take initiative in their own lives. They always blame others and have an excuse of why things are going wrong for them. Those who get poor toilet training, never have any fear of stooling on the floor of toilets, they piss anywhere without hiding, write on toilet walls using their fingers. They piss in their beddings even when they are old enough not to. Most of their words are vulgar and have no respect when talking because they failed to get a proper psycho-moral development at their tender age. They are seldom committed to the duties assigned to them.

3. INQUISITIVE STAGE: 8-13 YEARS:

The children's innocence fades out.

They begin developing self-defense mechanism

They become very creative and can speak things that leave one wondering

They are very poke-nosing and want to know everything

They ask a lot of endless questions. And their questions are always direct.

They begin being choosy in life and want to associate with particular people, eat particular foods, and visit particular homes, boys in school prefer playing or sitting with same sex than the opposite sex. This applies also to girls.

They develop fear because of their body changes

Most of them report minor things to their seniors and expect an action in order to please their Id.

They feel energized when given plastic promises and those who developed well in the *conformism stage* feel better when complimented and will repeat similar things to be complimented more.

In this stage, those who fail to be given proper information according to the question(s) asked, they become agoraphobia; they lack direction because they will seek their own answers. If given wrong answers, they become paranoids in life and depend on others in making even simple decisions.

4. HERMIT STAGE: 13-17 YEARS

Hermits were men who lived a very secluded life praying for people. They lived mostly in deserts during the archaic time. James called this stage *Hermit stage* because most of the children in this stage undergo lots of transformations and changes. They want to do what they feel it's good to them. They are very energetic and get involved in many things. They do a lot of things in secret and are very particular. Those who fall in love at this stage at times ruins their future or delay in their achievement. They always think that their decisions are the best and when directed, they feel reluctant. They seek a lot of freedom and if anything is denied to them, they threaten with statements of committing suicide. They want to be masters of their own lives. Relationships are at the backbone of their demands. When seeking for permission to do something or to go somewhere, they are never transparent or honest. They apply tricks. They should never be left to suffer in the jungles like *Hermits*; instead, their psycho-moral development should be attended to in order to drive their energy into positive, constructive and productive things. In order to develop into responsible men and women, they should be helped to create positive relationships to avoid stagnation in the future.

5. DECISION MAKING STAGE: 17-25 YEARS

In this stage, many decisions are taken. Either mature ones or immature ones. Those who developed properly in the previous stages, make very healthy decisions in life. They become industrious in life in order to achieve what they have set as goals. Many feel better to follow their hearts. They choose their professions and carriers in life. Those who are well supported, develop much quicker. Those who are left on their own, struggle to prosper but become very mean in life or less generous because they leant to get daily bread through sweat. When in a relationship, they are very unsettled due to the pressure of which choice and decision to make. When they are in conflict of making decisions, they need professional help to avoid future blames and regrets.

6. FREEDOM STAGE: 25.....

According to James, at this stage, an individual is mature enough to be left on his or her own. Most of them are out of their parental support and find their own things to do. Activities like finishing college, universities, and other professional studies are considered. Those that go through this stage unsuccessful, by the time they are sixty, yet they have never invested anything to depend on, they regret in life. They become burdens to others and bitter in life. They have lots of excuses why they never made up in life. Withdraw from their successful friends and even develop bipolar disorder. They might even become depressed and alcoholic. They seek sympathy by threatening to commit suicide. Those who come up successful, develop into happy people and great philanthropists.

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