THEORIES OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

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WHY PSYCHOLOGY???

- Psychological development is a dynamic process
- Governed by genetic, familial, cultural, interpersonal & interpsychic factors
- Pedodontist- “Parent Surrogate”
- Need to understand psychological development to relate & guide effectively
DEFINITIONS

- **Psychology**: Science dealing with human nature, function & phenomenon of his soul & mind in the main

- **Child psychology**: Science that deals with the mental power or an interaction between the conscious & subconscious element in a child
Emotions: An effective state of consciousness in which joy, sorrow, fear, hatred or the likes are expressed
IMPORTANCE OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

- Better understanding of the child
- Know problems of psychological origin
- Deliver dental service in a meaningful manner
- Establish effective communication
IMPORTANCE OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

- Gain confidence of child & parents
- Better teaching of primary & preventive care
- Effective treatment planning and execution
- Provide a comfortable environment
CLASSIFICATION

Psychodynamic theories:
- Psychosexual theory - Sigmund Freud (1905)
- Cognitive development theory - Jean Piaget (1952)
- Psychosocial theory - Eric Erickson (1963)

Behavioral theories:
- Classical conditioning – Pavlov (1927)
- Operant conditioning – Skinner (1938)
- Hierarchy of needs – Masler (1954)
- Social Learning theory – Bandura (1963)
Attempts to explain the personality & psychological disorders in an individual by understanding the mind at its different level, its motivation & conflicts.
**Born:**
May 6, 1856

**Died:**
September 23, 1939

**Field:**
Psychoanalysis Institution

**Known for:**
Founding psychoanalysis

**Notable Prizes:**
Goethe Prize
The goal was to bring to consciousness repressed thoughts and feelings.

Freud's early work with psychoanalysis can be linked to Joseph Breuer, he credits Breuer with the discovery of the psychoanalytical method.
MIND AS AN ICEBERG...

- Topographical model: Consists of conscious, preconscious & subconscious mind
- Human mind is like an iceberg
Only 10% of an iceberg is visible (conscious) whereas the other 90% is beneath (unconscious)
The conscious mind is where we are paying attention at the moment...

Only our current thinking processes and objects of attention

Constitutes a very large part of our current awareness
PRECONSCIOUS MIND

- Ordinary memory & knowledge
- Those things of which we are aware, but where we are not paying attention
- Deliberately bring them into the conscious mind by focusing
The process and content are out of direct reach of the conscious mind.

- Thinks and acts independently
- Dump box for urges, feelings and ideas
- Exert influence on our actions and our conscious awareness
STRUCTURAL MIND

- An individual’s feelings, thoughts, and behaviors are the result of the interaction of the id, the ego and the superego.
PSYCHIC TRIAD

SUPER
EGO

EGO

ID
- Born with it
- Important part of our personality
- As newborns, it allows us to get our basic needs met
- Wants whatever feels good at the time, with no consideration for the reality of the situation
- Primitive instinctive component of mind
- Reservoir of instinctual drives
- Amoral & incapable of judgment
- Not concerned with reality
- “Pleasure principle”
EGO

- The *rational* part of the mind
- Develops around 2-6 months of age
- To be reasonable and bear the long-term consequences in mind
- Uses *secondary processes* (perception, recognition, judgment and memory)
- “Reality principle”
SUPER EGO

- Prohibition from parents & society
- Moral & ethical component of mind
- "Perfection principle"
In a healthy person the ego is the strongest so that it can satisfy the needs of the id, not upset the superego, and still take into consideration the reality of every situation.
Dynamic equilibrium
Exams are approaching. Should you ..... 

Do no revision and socialise 

Do nothing but revision, having no rest or relaxation 

Revise with a realistic revision timetable
These are tactics which the Ego develops to help deal with the ID and the Super Ego.

All Defense Mechanisms share two common properties:
- They often appear unconsciously.
- They tend to distort, transform, or otherwise falsify reality.
EGO DEFENCES

- When not in control over ID

Resources mobilized to overcome anxiety
The mental strategy to prevent open expression
Of ID
Rationalization: Giving excuses for shortcomings and thereby avoiding self-condemnation, disappointments, or criticism by others.
Projection: Attributing one's own unacceptable thoughts, feelings, impulses to others
Displacement: redirecting our impulses (often anger) from the real target (because that is too dangerous) to a safer but innocent person.
**Reaction formation:** reversal of our feelings, overacting in the opposite way to the fear
Denial: claiming/believing that what is true to be actually false
Regression: Giving up of mature problem solving methods in favor of child like approaches to fixing problems
Sublimation: transforming unacceptable needs into acceptable ambitions and actions
PSYCHOSEXUAL STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

“what we do and why we do it, who we are and how we became this way are all related to our sexual drive”

At each stage, different areas of the child's body become the focus of his pleasure and the dominant source of sexual arousal
Failures to set satisfying needs/goals at any stages of psychosexual development leads to the individual partially fixed at these levels which are evident by various pathologic traits and in adulthood showing these signs in various forms.
PSYCHOSEXUAL STAGES:

- Freud outlined six stages of manifestations of the sexual drive:
  - Oral
  - Anal
  - Urethral
  - Phallic
  - Latency &
  - Genital
ORAL STAGE (0 - 1.5 YRS)

- Erogenous Zone in Focus: Mouth
- Gratifying Activities: eating, sucking, gumming, biting & swallowing
- The mother's breast not only is the source of food & drink, but also represents her love
- Warm, trusting & affectionate relationship
Both insufficient and forceful feeding can result in fixation in this stage

**Symptoms of Oral Fixation:**
- Smoking
- Constant chewing on gum, pens, pencils, etc.
- Nail biting
- Overeating, Drinking
- Sarcasm ("the biting personality") and verbal hostility
- Pessimism, attention seeking behavior
- Aggressive, dominant
DENTAL APPLICATIONS
ANAL STAGE (1.5 – 3 YRS)

- Erogenous Zone in Focus: Anus
- Gratifying Activities: Bowel movement and the withholding of such movement
- Toilet training
- Discover their own ability to control
- Autonomy, Sense of shame
- Period of striving of independence
ANAL FIXATION

• Anal-Expulsive Personality: If the parents are too lenient the child will derive pleasure and success from the expulsion
  • Are excessively sloppy, disorganized, reckless, careless, and defiant
• Anal-Retentive Personality: If a child receives excessive pressure and punishment will experience anxiety over bowel movements
  • Very careful, stingy, withholding, obstinate, meticulous
DENTAL APPLICATIONS
URETHRAL STAGE (3-4 YRS)

- Transition between anal & phallic
- Derives pleasure by exercising control over urinary sphincter
- Objectives similar to anal stage
- Shame, competitiveness & ambition
DENTAL APPLICATIONS
PHALLIC STAGE (4-5 YRS)

- Probably the most challenging stage in a person's psychosexual development
- "Oedipus Complex"
- "Electra Complex"
- Castration Anxiety
- Penis envy
- Consolidation of ego
- Differentiating between sexes
Success or failure to resolve the conflict, he or she will have learnt to control their envy and hostility and begin to identify with and model the parent of their own sex.
DENTAL APPLICATIONS
LATENCY STAGE (6-12Y)

- Sexual feelings are suppressed to allow children to focus their energy on other aspects of life.
- Is a time of learning, adjusting to the social environment outside of home, absorbing the culture, forming beliefs and values.
LATENCY PHASE....

- Resolution of any defects
- Maturation of ego
- Greater control over instincts
- Consolidation of sex roles
- Mastery over skills
- Phase ends in puberty
DENTAL APPLICATIONS
GENITAL STAGE (PUBERTY ONWARDS)

- Erogenous Zone in Focus: Genital
- Gratifying Activities: heterosexual relationships
- Interaction with the Environment:
  Marked by a renewed sexual interest and desire, and the pursuit of relationships,
  Acceptance of adult role, Social expectations & values, mature personality
If people experience difficulties at this stage, and many people do, the damage was done in earlier oral, anal, and phallic stages.

Unresolved traits from previous phases seen in a modified form.
DENTAL APPLICATIONS
One of the first theories proposed in psychology
Stage wise classification help us to relate to patients well
Covers the psychological development of the entire lifespan
Role of biology and society have been highlighted
Concept of ego defenses was very practical
THE NOT SO GOOD ABOUT THIS THEORY

- Based only on the sexual drive
- Based on studies conducted on few patients
- Complicated and not very practically applicable
- Has been a source of constant criticism and debate (sexuality, oedipus complex, unconscious)
- Most of the work based on psychological patients
ANY QUESTIONS ???