

Role of Hereditary and Environment in the development of personality

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ABSTRACT

Each and every person on this planet is different from one another. No person's personality is fully like another person. Everyone differs from the other, that can be either physically or psychologically. Even the twins are no exception to this. They differ in some aspects or other. As and when we look at people from a psychological point of view these differences are quite obvious. In many cases even the children differ from their parents. We have seen that they may have some personality similarities with some forefathers or grandparents instead of their parents. The knowledge of heredity and environment has a great influence on human development. The development of human personality is also the product of both heredity and environment. Each trait of personality and response of an individual depends on his heredity and environment. Now the question arises what makes these differences to exist? What are the causes? The answer to these questions can be traced from two factors, viz., heredity and environment. Therefore, in order to know about the individual's personality, it is necessary to understand his heredity and environment.

Keywords: Environment, Heredity, Development, Psychology, Personality.

INTRODUCTION

Personality is a set of characteristics or traits that reflect in one's cognitive, affective and behavioural states. Personality is based on many factors like heredity or environment. The personality has been regarded as a practical force in determining success or failure in the life of an individual. An impressive personality is often taken to be synonymous with a good appearance, healthy physiques, pleasing manners, a good character, a pleasant temperament, etc. Although personality includes all these aspects of one's self, it is far beyond each of the sum of all these attributes. It may be said as a complex blend of a constantly evolving and changing pattern of a person's unique behavior, emerged as a result of his interaction with his environment, directed towards some specific ends in view. (S.K.Mangal,1993). Personality is the sum total of all the biological innate dispositions, impulses, tendencies, appetites and instincts of the individual and the disposition and tendencies acquired by experience. (Morton Prince, 1929).

The individual's personality, character, culture, thinking, common sense, skills, habits etc. depends upon heredity and environment he is brought into. Personality has a great importance in our social behavior. The development of personality points to the perennial state of learning. Besides physical conditions, the various modes of adjustment to the environment influence the development of personality. Essence states that "personality is the more or less stable and enduring organization of a person's character, temperament, intellect and physique, which determine his unique adjustment to the environment. The meaning of the word personality in practice has changed little since classical time, for it is still quite common to hear the common comments about personality labeling like walking, talking, dressing, physical appearance, nature and behavior etc. However, the fundamentals of personality include psychological process, appearance, various traits, attitudes, beliefs and faiths. There are various determinations of personality also as genetic factors including impulses, reaction tendencies, innate abilities and emotions.

The term, Personality Development, refers to the change as well as growth in personality throughout the lifetime of an individual. It is the development of certain traits, behaviour, and attitude that differentiates one person from another. **Personality also includes hereditary factors such as body- buildup, mental makeup, drives, urges, and motives and control mechanisms. Environmental factors also influence the personality such as crises, self- concept, role and status, goal activities, achievement experience, emotional striving and cultural imperatives etc..**



Fig : 1 Factors affecting personality

Main Discussion

No person can be born without heredity and genes cannot develop without a proper environment. An individual’s heredity is present since the moment of conception, and some environmental conditions also start influencing personality from this very stage. Each trait and response of an individual’s personality on his heredity and environment. Therefore, in order to know about the personality , it is necessary to understand his heredity and environment.

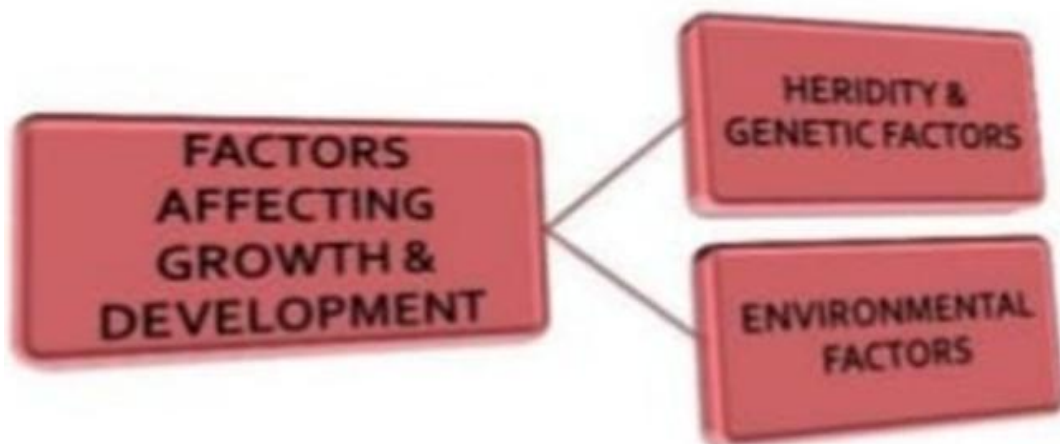


Fig.:2 (Influence of heredity and environment on personality development)

METHODOLOGY

The present chapter is entirely based on a descriptive method with availability of secondary sources. The secondary information is taken from various magazines, research studies, research articles, books and various websites. The present chapter approach includes the ideas and writings of different authors in the field of education and research.

HEREDITY

The synonym of heredity is inheritance or biological inheritance, it is the passing on of traits from parents to their offspring; either through asexual reproduction or sexual reproduction, the offspring cells or organisms acquire the genetic information of their parents. Heredity refers to the genetic inheritance received by every individual at the time of conception. These genes are the real determiners of hereditary characteristics—which pass on from one generation to the other. At the time of conception, the genes from chromosomes of both the father and the mother fuse together and determine the traits of the offspring to be born. The physical characteristics such as height, weight, color of eye and skin, social and intellectual behavior are determined by heredity. Differences in these characteristics are due to the change in the genes transmitted. Heredity also plays an important role in shaping one's personality by placing limits on individuals. Inherited characteristics limit what is possible. They will not determine what a person will do. The genetic makeup of a child is a stronger influence on personality than child rearing. Truly speaking heredity and environment play an important role in the development of the personality and other qualities in the individual. No a person can be born without heredity and genes cannot develop without a proper environment. Each trait and response of an individual depends on his heredity and environment. The child carries with himself several physiological and psychological peculiarities that are present in the parents. In fact it is the heredity that determines structure, complexion, structure of hair, height. Facial features nasal index etc. of the child. Thus different types of the genes help in the formation of a body.

HEREDITY

- Every human being is born as a result of conception which takes place due to certain biological Factors and process.
- The child carries with himself several physiological and psychological peculiarities that are present in the parents. In fact it is the heredity that determines structure, complexion, structure of hair, height. Facial features nasal index etc. of the child. Thus different types of the genes help in the formation of a body.

Fig : 3 (Heredity)

Environment

The environment is all the physical, chemical and biological factors external to a person, and all the related behaviours. This definition excludes behaviour not related to the environment, as well as behaviour related to the social and cultural environment, and genetics . Environment is actually global in nature, it is a multi -disciplinary subject including physics, geology, geography, history, economics, physiology, biotechnology, remote sensing, geophysics, soil science and hydrology etc. Moreover the term "environment is also used to describe, in the aggregate all the external forces, influences, and conditions, which affect the life, nature, behaviour, and the growth, development and maturation of living organisms." Environment includes all the forces that act upon the individual from without. The environmental influences begin even from the time of conception, in the mother's womb. During the pre-natal period, the nutrition received by the embryo has influence upon its development. In the post-natal period, the environment is of two types – physical and social. The physical environment includes, the place of residence, the climate of the place, the natural scenery, the food available, all other geographical factors. Under the social environment, we include the influence of home, neighbourhood, school, church and the social surroundings. Many philoshopers and psychologists has defined environment as :

Anne Anastasi “The environment is everything that affects the individual except his genes.” **Boring, Langfeld and Weld** “A person's environment consists of the sum total of the stimulation which he receives from his conception until his death.” **Douglas and Holland** “The term environment is used to describe, in the aggregate all the external forces, influences, and conditions, which affect the life, nature, behaviour, and the growth, development and maturation of living organisms.” **R.S. Woodworth and D.G. Marques** “Environment covers all the outside factors that have acted on the individual since he began life.”



Fig:4 (Environmental Factors)

CONCLUSION

Both Heredity and environment contribute to personality traits. Although a person's environment plays an important part in his personality development, heredity factors play a larger role in deciding disposition of this environment. In conclusion, both **hereditary and environmental factors** can influence a person's personality. Heredity sets the limitation which environmental differences decide the concluding result. However, genetic factors have a larger effect on personality traits. Thus, studies of heritability and limited parental influence all point to the notion that personality traits are more of expressions of human biology rather than products of life experiences. The development of personality depends upon a lot of factors. The factors of heredity, environment, learning and process of socialization are the important determinants of personality. Heredity of the genetic basis is a very important determinant of personality because the principal raw material of personality such as physique, intelligence and temperament are to a large extent dependent on the genetic endowment of a person. Environment is also a very important determinant of personality development. Physical environment, climate and terrain are important among the factors which affect one's personality development.

The question, which plays a more important role in personality development - heredity or environment has, to date, remained unanswered. There is evidence that heredity is more important in some areas of personality pattern while environment is more important in others. In reality the two jointly shape one's personality. Studies show that personality moulding begins early in life and that the early years are critical ones - once the foundations are laid, environmental influences become less important with each passing year. Environmental sources of personality moulding include the family, school, peer group, mass media, religion and occupation. The relative importance of these moulding sources varies from one age group to another and from one person to another. Two kinds of learning are responsible for personality moulding. The first is outer directed learning and is known as child training. The second is inner- directed and is called identification.

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