

Assessment of Development

- Why?
 - Assessment of child development can be important and useful in understanding
 - cognitive
 - ego
 - interpersonal
 - moral
 - psychosocial
 - Developmental assessment of adults can aid in understanding the relevant issues and most effective approach in counseling **and facilitating growth**
 - For the purpose of identifying needs and determining services

Focus of Development Assessment

- Normality in a given domain
 - Domain refers physical development and attained skills that would be normal for a given stage (eg preschool versus high school age)
- Historical factors (positive and negative) that contribute to level of functioning
- Current contextual factors that contribute to level of functioning
 - including health and well-being of individual and family
- Expectations of the client and significant others
- Current needs
- The Key element in assessing development is grounding the assessment in the context of the client's universe

Methods of Assessment

- Formal testing
 - including objective and subjective
- Observation within the environment
 - How does the individual interact with the environment?
 - May include social, physical, problem solving, etc.
- Interviews with significant others
 - What do parents or spouses say about interactions?

Types of Development Assessed

- Language
 - Here the concern is with the placement of an individual's language skills compared with peers
- Cognitive
 - typically concerned with the placement of the individual in a given stage of psychological development (e.g. Piaget)
- Psychosocial
 - Based on Erickson's eight stages of development across the life-span, may assist by identifying major life or psychosocial conflicts (e.g. integrity versus despair)
- Moral (e.g. Kohlberg - Preconventional/conventional, etc)
- Career (e.g. Super's five stages of career devt.)

Use of Drawing in assessment of development

- Draw a person
- Client is given paper and pencil and instructed to draw a picture of a person.
 - If they ask for clarification, then "You can draw the person any way that you want and take as much time as you need."
 - Although not objective measures, studies have found developmentally appropriate expectable drawing elements for a given age/gender.
 - Identifying developmental delay may assist in understanding of problems) that the client is having.

The image shows a screenshot of a data table with a complex header and multiple columns. The data is organized into several sections, with columns containing numerical values and categorical labels. The text is small and difficult to read in detail, but it appears to be a structured data set.



Consider the following....

- Client is a 45 year old Caucasian male who has presented with problems in relationships. He complains that women he dates always leave him after a short time, and he is unable to understand why.
- What would you assess based on this "Draw a Person" figure?


