



Developmental Psychology Unit 6 Project

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Visiting Grandma's House (4 years old)

Description of Event: It was summer in Bangladesh. My grandma called my mom to bring me to her house for the week. My mom could not go because she had something to do over the week. I really wanted to go, so my aunt, who lived with us, took me there. I've never went somewhere without my mom. Some of my cousins were over at my grandma's house, I played with them the entire day. When it got to the night, I felt a little weird about my mom not being there with me. My grandma patted me while I slept. After a while I woke up crying and I told grandma that I wanted my mom. She tried to make me go back to sleep, but I refused to sleep until my mom comes. She did not know what to do, so she called my mom and told her to come as soon as possible. Then my grandma told me "If you go to sleep, you'll see your mom right when you wake up tomorrow". Listening to her, I went back to sleep. I woke up the next day and my mom was in bed with me. She traveled for 3 hours and arrived at my grandma's house a little before dawn. I saw her and jumped into her. However, a few minutes later, I ignored my mom and played with my cousins once again.

Analysis:

This can be applied to **Kohlberg's Moral Development Theory**. I was crying so that my mom would come. I was doing what was necessary to satisfy my own needs. This relates to **Piaget's cognitive developmental theory/ Moral development** because I was at the preoperational stage. Piaget might claim that I only understood my point of view. (Egocentrism) I didn't think about how long it'll take my mom to come or how is she going to come during the night. The only thing I wanted at the moment was for her to somehow appear in front of me. Therefore, I continued to cry. This also relates to the 3 attachment styles Mary Ainsworth came up with. I was showing **Anxious/Ambivalent attachments** because I showed distress when I came to realize that my mom wasn't there, however, I rejected her after she came over and continued to play with my cousins.

Getting Into a Top School (7 years old)

Description of Event: In 2007, I had to study for this really competitive school in our city in Bangladesh. It was one of the two best schools in the city. My mom put me into a tutoring place and I had two private tutors at home. I was not allowed to move until I studied enough. My mom made me study so hard that I got sick at least four times within the few months before the big test. She told me that when I finish studying, she'll let me play outside with my friends. Whenever I was sick, she brought the books that I needed to study from to my bed. She never wanted me to stop studying. If she saw getting a score that she didn't like, she would tell my private tutors to stay an extra hour at our house. Sometimes, she took me to my friend's house for some free time. She would invite my cousins over because she knew I needed breaks. Even my dad, who was in America at the time would call us in Bangladesh just to tell me to study hard.

Analysis:

I could connect this event to how my parents were involved in my development. According to Diana Baumrind's **parenting styles**, my parents would be labeled as Authoritative parents. My parents had reasonable demands and high responsiveness, especially my mom. She would let me be independent while playing outside with my friends if only I finished my work, which was the limit and control on my action. She was warm, but firm at the same time. They also valued my opinion and looked for ways to support me. For instance, she helped my study when I was sick and asked me where I wanted to go to take a break. Thanks to her, I got the 6th top score out of the 700 people that took the test and got into the school. The parenting styles of my parents positively affected me and did not lead me to a difficult life. Also, their parenting style caused me to modify my existing schemas about education in Bangladesh compared to America (**Accommodation**). I used to think education in America must be very difficult. However, after coming here, I realized that education in Bangladesh is three times more difficult and tiring than America.

Coming To America (7 years old)

Description of Event: I came to America in May and went to school in June, exactly one week before summer vacation of 2nd grade. I was very nervous to go to school because I did not speak any english other than the words “Hello” and “Good morning” and “Bye”. I did not understand anything that my teacher told me or any homework she assigned us. I was literally afraid of going to school at the time. A few bengali girls in my class translated things for me, however, it was difficult to become friends with the people who did not speak bengali. A bengali boy, who became the student of the month made fun of me by telling me that I can never become student of the month because I did not speak english which apparently did not make me “smart enough”. Then I started watching disney channel, which was my method of learning how to speak english. In order to prove myself to him, I became the next student of the month. After a year of watching tv and going to school, I lost my accent and spoke more fluently. Eventually, everything became very easy for me to adapt to.

Analysis:

This situation relates to both Erikson and Kohlberg. According to **Erikson’s Psychosocial Stages**, I was at the Industry vs Inferiority stage at the time. I needed to win approval by demonstrating that I was able to become student of the month. I also developed a sense of pride in that accomplishment. **Kohlberg’s stage** of winning approval under conventional level, show that I was seeking approval of others. My parents’ **parenting style** really came into play during this time because I was used to being competitive from going to school in Bangladesh and that still affected me when I came to America. My parents were not very authoritarian, permissive or uninvolved. They supported me, gave me freedom and put limits on my actions at the same time. They helped me distinguish from right and wrong because I did not speak up to the boy who judged my abilities, instead I proved myself to him through my actions.

Traditional Party At Friend's House (9 years old)

Description of the Event: I live on street full people who are Bengali and muslim. There are about 60 bengali families who live on our street. Every year we all invite each other to each other's houses. Once we got invited to one of the houses and they separated the men and women. Men stayed in one side of the house while the women stayed in the other side. However, the weird part is that men cannot enter the rooms where women are. If they want to talk to their wives, they have to call their wives' name out loud standing by the door of the women's room. Then the wives would come out of the room. However, if the wife wanted to talk to their husband, they cannot go in front of the men's room. They have to tell a nearby child or anyone under 18 to go to their husband and call him for her.

Analysis:

After that day, I slowly started realizing that **gender roles** is an actual thing. I've seen division of females and males while I lived in Bangladesh, but now living in a muslim-bengali family and being surrounded by Western culture has helped me determine what gender roles are. In society, men are usually seen as the head of the household and expected to be self-confident and aggressive. Women are often expected to be accommodating and emotional. In Western culture, gender stereotypes are shown through books, movies, music and advertisements. Even in my family, my dad is usually the one who decides on things: where we go for vacations, where we go out to eat, and what we do when something happens.

Bandura's Social Learning Theory is related to this because I was able to form my gender identity by observing my surroundings. My culture and religion shaped my thoughts about gender and sexuality. I used to believe in the gender stereotypes because I saw it with my family almost every day. I read children's books that stereotype women and men. My religion does not allow sexuality, however, in America it's an usual thing. Although those differences exist, my family's culture and Western culture both show gender stereotyping.

Asking My Dad a Question(10 years old)

Description of Event: One day at school in 5th grade, we were eating lunch and two girls sitting in front of me were having a conversation. All of a sudden, I overheard them saying “I didn’t know she was a lesbian..” and throughout their conversation, they kept on repeating the word “lesbian”. It was a word I’ve never heard before. I came home and went to my dad to ask what it meant. He said it means “when girls get married with girls”. He did not know the actual meaning of it so he just told me that. I was very surprised at hearing that because I never knew that was an actual thing. I’ve never heard of it while living in Bangladesh. My naive self wanted to search it up on the internet and came across the word “gay”. I was still very confused, so I went to my friends the next day and asked them all about it. They told me what they knew and I found it very interesting, but I still had so many questions. Then I found out that one of my friend was a transgender and realized that she had a gender identity, which is different from her assigned sex.

Analysis:

Since that day, I did not have any misconception about gender. Before that day, I thought only opposite genders are allowed to be together. Then I realized that I thought that only because of what I grew up around and what my family believed. I learned about the difference between being homosexual and being a **transgender**. I realized that **gender identity** was an actual thing. Since I was very young, I did not know how to deal with hearing and seeing things that I never knew before. Later, I started to see it as an usual thing and I became friends with many people who are transgender and homosexual. Thanks to my dad, my friends and the internet for breaking my misconceptions about gender.

Caught by Mom (12 years old)

Description of event: In 6th grade, I used to go to a tutoring place fifteen minutes away from my house. My mom always told me to go there wearing a headscarf. However, I did not want to wear it at all. None of my friends wore it, so I didn't see the point of wearing it. One day she told me to wear it and I wore it. However, I took it off on the way of going to tutoring without my mom knowing. I did that for a month. I wore skirts that exposed my skin, which is totally not allowed in my religion. I even decided to wear a cropped top one day by seeing my friend wear it. One day, my mom walked into my tutoring place and I did not know she was going to come. She came in to give me something, but when she saw me, she told my teacher that she wanted to take me home. After getting out of the building, my mom started to give me a lecture in front of everyone on the streets.

Analysis:

Erikson's psychological stages can be applied to this because I was at the Identity vs. Role Confusion stage. I did not know what I believed in or what my morals were. I wanted to be independent, but at the same time, I wanted to satisfy others by being like them. I was very insecure about how I looked, that I forgot all about my religion and started to change myself for society to accept me. This can also be applied to **Piaget's cognitive developmental theory** because I was under Formal-Operational stage. I realized that ideas can be compared just like objects can because people have different ideas about what should be accepted and what should not be accepted in society. I compared their ideas and decided to follow the one that would satisfy my friends. This way I was being like any other adolescent.

Summer of 2016 (15 years old)

Description of Event: During the summer of 2016, I made quite a lot of friends from different places in NYC. One day, my best friend and I decided to make a group chat with about eight others that live on our street, on facebook. We chatted and talked through audio call all at the same time. We pulled about three all nighters while chatting with each other. I felt guilty for doing that because my parents thought I was asleep the entire time. On another day, I added this boy from facebook that I did not know on our group chat. He talked to us normally for a few minutes and all of a sudden, he started adding his friends from Bronx high school of science. Then his friends started to add their friends from schools like Stuyvesant, Brooklyn Tech and Townsend Harris. At the end there was a total of 88 people on the group chat. I did not know majority of them. We all introduced each other, which took about an hour. We sent each other memes and talked about the most random topics. I felt guilty that I did not tell my parents about this. We all met up at Central Park, however, like 45 people showed up. There were so many of us that it was as if we were part of a program or something. We all became friends, but I became really close to 6 of them since we were all very similar. We still talk and visit each other's houses. It was the most strange and unforgettable memory I have.

Analysis:

This can be applied to **Piaget's Stages of Cognitive Development** because I was at the Formal-Operational stage. I started to apply moral rules to every situation. I started to think if it was right or wrong to keep information away from my parents. I was very egocentric in a way because I focused on myself and what others thought about me. While meeting up with those friends, I was a bit insecure about the fact that I did not go to a specialized high school, but most of them did. I was confused about my place in society because I felt like I did not belong there or that I wouldn't fit in. This relates to **Erikson's psychological stages** under Identity vs Role confusion. I had a difficult time adjusting with them, however, at the end, everything worked out.

College (18 years old)

Description: My dream after graduation was to move away, but now it has changed. I don't mind moving away or staying in NY as long as I go to a good college. I want to communicate as much as I can with the people around me on the first day of freshman year. I want to form relationships and make new friends. I also want to get to know my professors and introduce myself to them.

Analysis: At that time, I will be in between Identity vs Role confusion and Intimacy vs Isolation stage of **Erikson's psychological stages**. Identity vs Role Confusion stage will either lead me to success or lead me to failure. I'll accept others despite ideological differences. I'll be more independent and share myself more intimately with others. I'll explore long term relationship with someone. It will either lead me to love or lead me to isolation.

Family (30 years old)

Description: I want to become a cardiologist in the future. Hopefully, I'll have a happy and healthy family who I can settle down with. I want to continue living in America and travel the world with my family and friends. I want to go visit countries in every continent where people are in need. I want to go and help them. I want to give children who cannot go to school or cannot afford to go to school an opportunity for free education.

Analysis: According to **Erikson's psychological stages**, hopefully, I am able to establish careers, settle down, and begin families. Success will lead me to care and failure will make me feel stagnant and unproductive. Through **Kohlberg's moral stages of development**, under Postconventional Level, I'll be able to make judgements based on my personal values.

End of Life

Description: Towards the end of my life, I want to be around people that I love and admire. I do not want to be living alone. I want my family and friends to be there with me when I die. I want to see everyone's faces and reminisce about the memories I had with each of them. I want to see my children and grandchildren before I die. I want to leave a legacy, so my family, friends, and others will always remember me.

Analysis: My last stage will be Ego Integrity vs Despair from **Erikson's psychological stages**. I would slow down productivity because I'll be really old and I'll explore life as a retired person. Failure and feeling as if we were unproductive can lead to despair, depression, and hopelessness. Success will lead me to wisdom which will enable me to look back on my life with a sense of closure/ completeness, and accept death without fear.