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Psycho- Sexual Development

B.A.Part-2
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Psychosexual development

- ▶ Freud proposed that psychological development in childhood takes place during five psychosexual stages: oral, anal, phallic, latency, and genital.
- ▶ These are called psychosexual stages because each stage represents the fixation of libido on a different area of the body.



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- ▶ According to Freud the whole process of development is completed in the first five years of life. In view of this the years of early childhood are considered to be crucial.
- ▶ Whether a man is normal and abnormal, depends to a great extent how the parents and others have treated him and how smooth was his transition from one stage to another.



Oral stage

- ▶ During the oral stage, the infant's primary source of interaction occurs through the mouth, so the rooting and sucking reflex is especially important. The mouth is vital for eating, and the infant derives pleasure from oral stimulation through gratifying activities such as tasting and sucking.



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- ▶ The primary conflict at this stage is the weaning process--the child must become less dependent upon caretakers.
- ▶ If fixation occurs at this stage, result in problems with drinking, eating, smoking, or nail-biting.



The Anal stage

- It occurs approximately 1 ½ to 3 years.
- The region around the anus become highly sensitive.
- First part of this stage involves pleasure from expulsion of feces; latter part involves pleasure from retention.
- The major conflict at this stage is toilet training.




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- Toilet training is child's first encounter with authority.
- If parents take an approach that is too lenient, Freud suggested that an anal-expulsive personality could develop .
- If parents are too strict to toilet training then anal-retentive personality could develop.



The Phallic stage

- It occurs between the ages of 3-6.
- The word “ phallic” comes the Latin word “phallus”, which means “penis”.
- During this stage pleasure focuses on the genitals as the child discovers that self-stimulation is enjoyable.
- This stage has special importance in personality development due to Oedipus& Electra complex.



The Oedipus complex

- ▶ Freud also believed that boys begin to view their fathers as a rival for the mother's affections. The Oedipus complex describes these feelings of wanting to possess the mother and the desire to replace the father.
- ▶ The child also fears that he will be punished by the father for these feelings, a fear Freud termed *castration anxiety*.



Electra complex

- Freud also believed that girls begin to view their mother as a rival for the father's affections. The Electra complex describes these feelings of wanting to possess the father and the desire to replace the mother.
- The girl desires the father, but realizes that she does not have a penis. This leads to the development of **penis envy** and the wish to be a boy.



Womb envy

- ▶ Psychologists such as Karen Horney disputed this theory, calling it both inaccurate and demeaning to women.
- ▶ Horney proposed that men experience feelings of inferiority because they cannot give birth to children, a concept she referred to as *womb envy*.



The Latency stage

- It occurs at approximately between 6 years of age until puberty.
- At this stage, the child represses all interest in sexuality and develops social and intellectual skills.
- A sign of fixation in this stage is a lack of close friends.



The Genital stage

- This is the fifth and final stage of psycho -sexual development.
- In this stage the repressed sexual desire of the phallic stage reemerge only to be transferred on to other people of the opposite sex.
- This stage is important for heterosexual relations and reproduction.