



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

COURSE CODE: EGC 803

COURSE TITLE: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

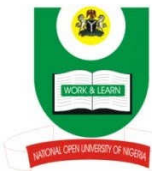
EGC 803: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

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NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

MODULE1

DEVELOPMENTALPSYCHOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

Our concern as teachers is to assist the child to develop the appropriate personality. This implies that we must not only know the subject matter but the child. Knowing the child includes knowing how the child grows and develops in the study. The knowledge of the assumptions about how the child develops and his/her inherent characteristics which give rise to personality will afford the teacher the opportunity to guide the teaching and learning processes towards optimal performance.

Studying the growth and development of the child becomes necessary because:

- the knowledge of the child as he/she is presently will assist the teacher in guiding his/her future;
- to understand a child as he/she is presently, we must understand what had gone before;
- knowing what happened during the early stages of development will help the teacher to give appropriate remedy to later learning difficulties.

In view of the above, you need to gather the knowledge and experiences on general growth and development patterns of your students and their implications for education.

As you go through this course material, you should constantly reflect on your past experiences during childhood and adolescence. Such reflections will help you empathize with your students and be able to give realistic help and support to them.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this module, you would be able to:

- (i) Define correctly, the basic concepts of growth and development;
- (ii) Describe the factors that affect growth and development;
- (iii) Explain the principles of growth and development;
- (iv) Describe the theories of development;
- (v) Describe the stages of human development;
- (vi) Explain the educational implications of the various stages of human development.

UNIT1 BASIC PROCESSES OF GROWTH ANDDEVELOPMENT

Contents

- 1.1 Introduction
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 - 1.3.1 Developmental Psychology
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 - 1.3.3 Developmental Processes
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- 1.5 References/Further Reading/Web Sources
- 1.6 Possible Answers to Self-Assessment Exercise(s) within the content

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The study of human development from conception to adulthood is the concern of developmental psychology.

The teacher should have the knowledge of how children grow and develop in order to guide and shape their future development. It is at the early formative years that the child's personality and behaviour are determined.

The child is a product of both nature and nurture. This implies that the hereditary factors interplay with the environmental factors to determine how the child grows and develops.

In this unit, we shall discuss the basic processes of growth and development. We shall also briefly discuss the principles of growth and development and their educational implications.

1.2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this Unit, you should be able to:

- Define development and developmental psychology;
- Describe development processes
- Enumerate and explain the general principles of development.

1.3 MAINCONTENT

1.3.1 Developmental Psychology

This is an aspect of psychology which deals with the development, growth and behaviour in human beings right from the time of conception to the period of adolescence when most of the functions

of the body become matured. It also deals with the factors which determine what a child will become in future. It is therefore a scientific approach which aims to explain how children and adults change over time. The aims of developmental psychology are to describe, explain, and to optimize development.

1.3.2 Development

This refers to qualitative changes in an organism. It is a progressive series of orderly and coherent changes in human beings. It is progressive in the sense that the changes are distinctional and lead to moving forward. It is orderly and coherent because there is a definite relationship between a given stage and the stages which follow it.

Development can be described as a complex process of integrating many structures and functions in an organism. As a result of the integration, changes are dependent upon what preceded them and they in turn affect what comes after.

The qualitative changes that come upon an organism are as a result of the accumulation of experiences. The experiences derive from hereditary and environmental influences. Thus, individuals reflect on their experiences and become more refined and matured in dealing with new and novel situations.

1.3.3 Developmental Processes

(1) Growth

Growth refers to quantitative changes in an organism. This usually involves permanent increase in size and structure of organisms. These quantitative changes are both physical and mental. These include physical changes in height, weight, girth, internal organs and mental changes in memory, reasoning, perception and creative imagination.

All these changes make the child to be physically grown and mentally responsive. The quantitative changes in height, weight, girth and others are as a result of multiple cell divisions called MITOSIS (Mitotic Cell Division). This usually involves body cells called Somatic Cells (Vegetative cells). Somatic cells always have 23 pairs of Chromosome (i.e. 46) called the **Diploid number ($2n$)**.

In the process of Mitosis, one cell divides into two, then into four, eight etc. Each daughter cell is always similar in every way to the parent cell and they always have the Diploid number ($2n$) of Chromosomes.