

MJC-5 Abnormal psy
V.G. Sem. IV
Models of Abnormality

Q. Explain Socio-Cultural models of abnormal behaviors. or Discuss Socialization model, Social disorganization model & Cultural model as the Socio-Cultural explanations of mal-adaptive behavior or mental disorders.

Ans. Abnormal behav. or mal-adaptive behavior or mental disorder develop as a function of biological factors, psychological factors & socio-cultural factors. We shall discuss here the socio-cultural influences in the dev. of abnormal behaviors under the foll. categories.

The abnormal symptoms may develop due to biological factors, psychological factors, & socio-cultural factors. The socio-cultural factors are as follows:

1. Socialization Model
According to this view of socialization, if the child is not properly socialized, he may develop abnormal symptoms. Attitudes & beliefs of parents influence the child's development of personality. Parental rejection, over protection, dominance, submission & similar attitudes may lead to abnormal symptoms in children. Vaillant (1974) study supported this view.

Socialization Model:- According to this sociocultural model abnormal behavior develops due to disturbances of normal social development. If the socialization of the child does not occur in a normal way, the child is likely to develop abnormality. The attitudes & beliefs of parents are imp. socializing influences in the dev. of the personality of the child. Parental rejection, over protection, dominance, submission & similar attitudes are responsible for the dev. of mal-adaptive behaviors in children. Vaillant (1974) reported that parental attitudes play significant role in the

(173) Loney also found the homosexual ~~development~~ due to faulty socialization in the family. Loney (1973) found that children developed homosexual tendency due to defective socialization process in the family. Similarly mal & adaptive behav. may also develop due to ethnic & cultural influences.

(113) Child rearing is a significant aspect of socialization model. It has been found that due to defective child rearing practice the child is more likely to develop abnormality. Lack of breast feeding, abrupt weaning, short-missing, rigid nursing schedule, premature toilet training, infrequent mothering, excessive punishment & similar actions may lead to the development of mal-adaptive behav. in the child. Adams^{ch} & others (1972) reported that maternal deprivation as well as father deprivation is a great cause of emotional disturbance in the child.

(11c) Family pathology is another aspect of socialization model. The child of a pathological family has a greater risk for becoming abnormal than a child of a normal family. Studies of family pathology point out to the fact that when one family member is disturbed the other members are likely to show signs of mal-adjustment.

* The studies of cult. disintegration indicates that urbanisation or the mov. of people from cultural areas to the cities is related to mental disorder.

Anthony (1974) reported that children of mentally disturbed parents (specially the mother), have high risk to fall victim to mental disorders. It has been also found that the children of alcoholic parents have greater susceptibility for alcoholism. Lidz (1958) also reported that family pathology is a great cause of maladjustment in children.

2) Social disorganization model: - This is also a socio-cultural model which emphasizes that maladaptive behavior grows out of social pathology. In this connection four points have to be mentioned - Firstly, Maladaptive behavior may develop as a function of cultural disintegration. Disintegrated & disorganized environment is likely to foster the dev. of mental disorders. This has been supported by Leighton (1961). Similarly the cultural disintegration also is more likely to foster the growth of mental disorders. It has been reported that mental disorder is more frequent in the

Anthony (1974) found that parents of children with mental symptoms have a high risk to develop alcohol addiction.

Social disorganization model views say that mental symptoms develop due to social pathology. This connection is important.

disorganized environment may lead to mental symptoms & is supported by Leighton (1961).

of cultural disintegration leads to mental disorder. It has been found by Schmidt (73) Schmidt Schmidt

✓ This is bec. of the diff. in national & racial
make up of urban and rural population. There
is more intense striving for status in urban areas.

Mental disorder
in urban areas.

(2) Social disorganization
is more frequent in urban
than the rural
areas so mental
disorder is more
prevalent in
urban areas than
the rural areas.
Levy (1973) has
supported this view.

disintegrated & disorganized culture. This
has been supported by Schmidt (1973).
Secondly, mental disorder
is more frequent in urban than in
rural areas. The reason is that social
disorganization is more prevalent in urban
than in rural areas. This has been
supported by Faris & other (1939). Similarly
Levy & others (1973) found that mental
disorder was more frequent in Chicago
city than in the sub rural areas. So
this study also suggests that social
disorganization may lead to the dev. of
mal-adaptive behavior.

(3) Mobility & Migration
have adverse
effect on the
socialization &
mental health
of the child.
Language barriers,
religious conflicts,
clashing habits
& racial prejudice
may cause abnormal
symptoms in
refugees & migrants.
Keller (1975)
supported this
view.

Thirdly, mobility & migration also
are closely related to social disorganization
& abnormal behaviors. Mobility & migration
can have adverse effect on mental health.
Language barriers, religious conflicts, Con-
flicting habits, racial prejudice etc. etc.
are the stresses which may cause behav.
disorders in the migrants. This has been
supported by the study of Zigas.
Similarly Keller (1975) made a very imp.
study of Pakistani refugees
following the partition of India. It

* Disruptive eco. changes result in losses in job income & this situation has a direct impact on mental disorders. Also, increased eco. status carries with it a sense of personal security & due to this sense of security, stress is reduced & one is less exposed to tension & conflict.

Was found that there was an increase in mal-adaptive behaviors among those refugees. Fourthly, Social & Economic deprivation is closely related to social disorganization & mal-adaptive behav. Studies have shown that the people of Socio-Economically deprived family are more likely to develop mental disorders. Churchill & others (1969) found the highest rates of neurosis in Socio-economic advantaged group. But the highest rate of psychosis was found among Socio-economically disadvantaged group. So it has been found that there is a relationship between general economic conditions & mental disorder.

(4) Social and Economic deprivation may also cause abnormal symptoms*
Churchill (69) found very high incidence of psychosis in socio-economic disadvantage group.

(3) Cultural Model
see to this model
(1) Normal behav. of one culture
Diff. in culture
gelling bet is seen
appears abnormal
in other culture
Homo sexual
is not mal in some W. culture but abnormal in our culture
(Hindu & Muslim marriage)

Cultural Model :- (This is the third & the last approach of Socio-cultural model regarding the develop. of abnormality). This model maintains that abnormal behav. is abnormal because it is defined that way by a particular culture. So one behavior may be treated as abnormal in one culture & normal in another culture. (Homo-sexuality is an abnormal behavior in our culture & the same homosexuality is normal in Hindu & Muslim marriage)

② Exotic disorder is a normal behav. in some western culture. (There are certain mental disorders which are confined to a particular culture. They are called Exotic disorders.) For e.g. Arctic

hysteria is found in the culture of northern people. This exotic disorder is characterized by high degree of suggestibility & hypnotic trans. Similarly Pibloktoq, also an exotic disorder which is observed among Eskimo Woman. This disorder is characterized by sudden excitement, weeping, etc. Again Amok is another exotic disorder prevalent in the Malayas. This disorder is characterized by sudden wild out burst of aggression.

- The foll. are exotic disorders found in particular culture -
- 1) Arctic hysteria
 - 2) Pibloktoq in Eskimo culture
 - 3) Amok & Lata in Malaysian culture.
- These symptoms are more or less hysterical symptoms.

Socio-cultural factors play significant roles in the dev. of mal-adaptive behaviors. However socio-cultural factors must be complemented with biological factors & psychological factors in order to explain the whole range of abnormality.

Thus it can be concluded that in the dev. of abnormal symptoms not only socio-cultural factors but biological & psychological factor should also be given due emphasis.