

# Theory

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Interrelation between Eriksons theory, Piagets theory and Kohlbergs theory

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Erickson's theory of psychosocial development explains in eight stages the impact of social experience which a healthy human will undergo from childhood into adulthood. A person's personality is built upon completion of these stages whether successively or not, and one carries the identity acquired (beliefs, values, ideals) into the next stage (Miller, 2010).

Kohlbergs theory of moral development has six stages that indicate that the ethical behaviour and moral reasoning of a person is fundamentally determined by justice and how they perceive it at different stages in life. Kohlberg determined at each stage, a person became progressively adequate at solving moral dilemmas.

Piaget's Theory of Cognitive development on the other hand seeks to explain the development of mental functions dealing with logic and human intelligence in four stages. These are progressively acquired in biological maturation and due to environmental factors hence shaping a person's personality (Miller, 2010).

The Eriksons, Piagets and Kohlbergs theories are all developmental theories that focus on the development of the human mind and try to understand the growth of cognitive, moral, language and social skills from childhood and how these change through to adulthood. They try to explain and seek understanding of how people perceive, understand and act and how this changes as they grow older.

These theories explain that development is a continual process where learning and experience occur in stages through gradual accumulation of knowledge. A person's character and behaviour according to the three

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theories is therefore developed and influenced by maturational factors, social context and environment.

#### References

Miller, P. (2010). *Theories of Developmental Psychology*. New York: Worth Publishers.