

Multidimensional Paper

Human Behavior in the Social Environment II

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Abstract

Valentin was the second of 6 kids (3girls and 3 boys). They all had the same mother and father. He was born in the Dominican Republic and came to the United State of America (USA) when he was 8. His mother and his father both migrated to the USA a few years before they came to this country. Valentin is now 63 years old; he has been married for the last 15 years, never had kids with his wife. He had four kids with three different partners. He has four grandkids which he loves and spends time with weekly. In the ups and downs of life Valentin went through a trajectory that changed his life path and it was hard for him to get on track again. There were moments that he did not think he would be able to make a switch that will bring him back to his purpose in life.

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Infancy/Newborn Chapters: Trust vs. Mistrust

Valentin does not remember with much detail many events that might have taken place during these stages. Her pregnancy had no difficulties and his mother was a healthy person. His mother and father never mentioned any difficulties. He does not remember his mother even mentioning any risk factors during this time. He was a full-term baby and born naturally. He was a healthy baby and was discharged with mom, no intensive care was necessary for him. Valentin does not remember the age he crawled or walked at. He does not remember his mother mentioning any developmental delay for him as a baby. He was breastfed by his mother and eventually formula. His mother was always at his care and was never left with babysitters. His mother was a stay at home mother which allowed for the bonding time and trust to be developed at an early stage in his life. His father was a stable male figure to him from this early stage. The caring of his family and having a stable finance allowed for him to also obtain all the caring and balanced nutrition that he needed for his normal development.

Early Childhood: 2 years -3 Autonomy vs. Shame

Biological:

Healthy child, normal development, he had a regular normal vocabulary at this stage. He had a good relationship with his siblings. He was regularly active, and his motor skills were normal for his age. He talked and expressed his needs, he was loving. Valentin was a very independent, exploring and very curious child. He cannot recall much about this stage, but his mother never mentioned any irregularity with his biological development. Valentin used the bathroom at nighttime with no difficulties.

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Psychological:

Valentine does not remember much about this stage, but his mother never mentioned any irregularity. He can remember he was attached to his mother. His mother did not express any psychological developments. He was able to express his needs and they were met. His father was an officer, but he will return home daily. He remembers his father was always with them. He was never afraid of dark or monsters, he never wet his bed. His mother used to take care of them, his mom was a stay at home mom.

Spiritual: He family always visited the Catholic church.

At this stage having a stayed at home mother helps with Valentin development and forming a routine habit at this stage. His family was a functional family which allowed him to be emotionally stable, secure and gave him a sense of belonging. His mother was a protective factor for Valentin during this time because she was able to provide the nurturing, secureness and stimulation he needed at this stage. Valentin had a normal development in the different areas he was expected at this stage as far as he can remember, but he presents infantile amnesia.

Since Valentin does not remember much of what happened during this time, but his mother. His father was present in his life, but as per his memories not as much as his mother, which might have affected him emotionally because he did not create a strong connection with him. The male figure in a child's life provides support and identity on who they are. Fathers are the first to be the model of their male children to build a male characteristic in their personality.

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The father figures bring in a different type of support, security and emotional. Fathers also established different types of relationships with their children than mothers. “Mothers involved the infant in a verbal interaction, whereas fathers are more physical and rougher with their babies” (Yoman, 1922)

Preschool: 3years- 5 years Initiative vs. guilt

Biological:

Develop asthma, he was allergic to dust and it used to worsen his asthma. His mother conducted special cleaning in the house to avoid episodes. He was a regularly active child, he started to go to a school, but he was very shy. They were financially stable, and his mother always prepared them food and made sure they were clean and properly dressed. He remembered he liked sports. He does not remember anything about his education at this stage. Valentin does not remember anything about his teacher, classmates, school places or any other activities with his mother. All that he remembers is being at home with his mother, he does not have memories with his father or siblings.

Psychological:

Late on this stage, he remembers being a good student and he used to enjoy history and social studies. Valentine was a happy child and restless; he liked to explore and was very curious about things. His father traveled to the USA in 1962. He does not remember how it would have affected him or anything about his father's departure. His mother stayed with them and was the only one at home taking care of them.

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Sociological:

He did not get involved in groups as far as he can remember, he might have had one to two friends from his neighborhood. He used to be very protective with his brother and sisters, He remembers throwing a rock to a way older child for disrespecting her. He did not like being abused.

Spiritual: He remembers his mom used to take him to catholic church. Valentin remembered two things about this time he was in love with the Sunday school teacher at church and He loved the worship moment.

Valentin's father departure to USA was a risk factor for him at this stage. The removal of his father figured all the sudden might have affected him more than what he can imagine, but he cannot recall any changes or much of his reaction towards it. This absence of his father could have prompted and emotionally distressed that is not recalled.

His mother was a protective factor Valentin had at this stage, even though his father was present he used to spend more time with his mom which led to having a closer relationship with her than with his dad. His life remained to certain extent the same because his mother oversaw everything at home and responsible for the kids. Sport was another protective factor during this time because he loved and engaged in sports. His development was at the normal levels during this stage, but his emotional development might have been affected when his father migrated to the USA because his father was the only masculine figure he had. "Adults male help young boys

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define their own masculinity by encouraging and supporting their accomplishment” (Ashford, 2018. Pg. 215).

Valentin and his family could have used professional assistance such as a family psychologist to help mom and children to cope with the departure of his father. The psychologist could have assessed the family members to obtain results of how the event of not having their father/ husband affected them. Family therapy would have been helpful on the transition to a single mother household.

School Age: 6 years -12 years Industry vs. inferiority

Biological:

Valentine asthma was cured through home remedy. When Valentine's mother departed to the USA, he was 6 years of age, his grandmother did not provide good nutrition, she used to feed them the same everyday rice and beans, the meat was adults and visitors. He was fed bulgur wheat meal for breakfast and dinner; their meal sizes were small. He did not incur into any sickness at the time Valentin was 9 when he came to the USA with his mother recalls having fears in the airplane. He used to get frustrated with the English language and school. He eventually started to skip school for all the sessions. Even though his mother enrolled him in tutoring and afterschool programs he got discouraged. He used to make his mom believe he was going to school. Valentin had his first girlfriend at 11, they used to lock themselves in the classroom closet to kiss each other. He was bullied by boys because of his lips, but girls got along with him very well.

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Psychological:

Valentin's mother travels to the USA 1963 and does not remember her departure or anything he was 6 years old at the time. He does not recall if that affected him or his siblings in any way. He was left to the care of his grandparents while his parents were gone. Their nutrition was poor, his uncle used to exchange his uniform and shoes his mom sent him for money. His grandfather and uncles used to beat him up when he or siblings would advocate for more food, the meal sizes were small. He was placed under the bed as a way of punishing him for being a rebel. He used to express his point at the expense of getting a beating. He cannot remember expressing much to his mother, but he spoke to her over the phone a few times. He displayed loss of focus and distraction at school and started to get discouraged. He was always engaged in sports. His mother told him that he attacked her by throwing stones at her when she returned to the Dominican Republic to take them with her. He did not have anyone to motivate him for school or to assist with homework in DR. He used to play baseball, used to run a lot, sports were his motor of motivation. During the War of 1965 He saw many dead bodies during this time, and he was not afraid of them or had nightmares from that event.

Sociological:

Valentine had a friend in his neighborhood he used to play with, he did not have many close friends. He used to make his own kite and fly them. He remembered he got into a fight with another child for a kite and lacerated the child's head with a stone. Valentine was curious about extreme activities such as going to the rivers with friends to swim and climb trees. He used to get into fights everywhere he went to. He was obedient, but he did not like to be abused.

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He lived during the war of 1965 also called La Revolution de 1965, his family went through many financial needs. He remembers asking the American troops for food, peanut butter, etc.

Spiritual: His grandmother used to take him to church, and he was baptized when he was 6 years old.

During this stage Valentin was exposed to many risk factors that promote aggression towards school classmates and friends. His aggression originated from the abusive behaviors he was exposed to at home. His grandfather and uncles were a risk factor for him due to their physical abuse and mistreatment; the lack of respect toward him and his siblings were the foundation of his aggressive behavior. The poor nutrition and care also played an important part in his school performance and his physical development. The departure of his mother who represented his stability might have caused a trauma for him which eventually developed an aggressive behavior and lack of interest at school. He became rebellious and an advocate for himself and his siblings because he did not feel protected. His parents were authoritative, but his mother was the strictest of them. When they departed, they were left to authoritarian and aggressive people that affected them emotionally. Adults in charge of his well-being, did not supervise his learning or support his academic needs

Valentine at this stage had a few protective factors, his siblings which he fought for and looked out for their well-being and sports which was a way of coping with the environment he had at home. His grandmother was sweet, but she did not get involved in the abusive behavior her husband used to discipline. Valentin was at the level of development while physically, his motor skills were fine for his age, academically he was not up to his stage due to

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discouragement, lack of safety, insecurities and not having assistance for his schoolwork. All these factors played a role in Valentin developing a sense of inferiority and a lack of interest in school.

Mother should prepare the kids for her departure; a family psychologist and social worker should be involved in these quick changes; Valentin and his siblings were parentless within a year. The teacher should have gotten involved in visiting the family due to the child's behavior and change in academic performance. She should have been a mandated reporter for institutions that worked with child's protection at the time and provided an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) for the child to meet his educational needs. There were many important changes happening in his life at the same time when the exposure to new people and a different social environment was also taking place which led to discouragement.

Adolescence Chapter #7: 12years -18 years

Biological:

Finishing 8th grade, his mother sent him back to DR at age 15 because his mother caught him smoking a cigarette with friends. His mother placed him in a boarding school which was 7 Day Adventist. He used to play baseball in a league and basketball, and he was exceptionally good at them. He used to escape from the school in DR and went to parties and rivers, eventually he was terminated from the school due to disrespectful behavior. He wanted to do his GED, but he could not compromise the program's academic demands and he dropped out every time. He had his first job that he enjoyed at the company. He stopped school at age 18. He

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started to use marijuana, cigarettes, cocaine and alcohol. He was sexually active, but he would not get involved in casual sex and never had any sexual disease. He remembers his sexual drive was reduced due to the exposure to cocaine he had various incidents where he will not experience an erection. Valentin had his first baby, it was a girl which he loved, but could not be fully in her life due to the fluctuation of his addiction. He made good money, he was able to afford a luxurious life, provide for his family, but he was not present. His passion for sports and performance started to dim down at this stage.

Psychological:

He used to be very distracted at school, his mother put him in tutoring for English and all the other subjects, but he eventually skipped them. He lost interest on school and dropped out. He used to play basketball with peers at the playgrounds of his area and they got him involved with cigarettes, marijuana, alcohol and cocaine. He used to be very impulsive and just dropped off from things. He used to feel ashamed and embarrassed of his doings because his mom never accepted his money or his help. Valentin's mother and father always encourage him to change his life. He remembered his mother used to love him a lot and his parents had many conversations with him.

Sociological:

His friends from his neighborhood introduced him to marijuana and Cocaine. He became a drug dealer at the age 23 he had a drug spot at the time. Eventually it became his world, his focus was growing his business and making money. He had a lot of aspirations to go back to school in and being good father, but he could not accomplish it. Eventually most of his

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relationships always finished because he was not present or consistent with the relationships. He was always able to provide for his household, but never invested in the emotional part of it. He was frustrated and he felt he was not worthy. His mother went on her knees many times and beg him to change which made him feel bad because he deeply loves his family.

Spiritual: He went to a 7 days Adventist School to study (lasted a year) he stopped going to church at 16 years old.

His parents and siblings were protective factors because they loved him, and he loved them. His parents were very caring and not doing the wrong things made him see that he needed to change. The job he had helped him to see other ways to make a living and kept him feeling part of society still. His desire to spend more time with his child inspired him to change.

His friends and peers were a risk factor because they kept him attached to the addiction environment. They exposed him drugs and alcohol; peers were the main motor of this continuous destructive cycle. Since he could not compromise on school made him feel that he was not capable of getting educated due to the many unsuccessful attempts. His development and cognitive functions were affected due to his exposure to drugs and alcohol, he cannot fully use his capacities to acquire an education or to make decisions and comply with them.

His parents should have sought for a family social worker and psychologist to assist with reuniting, adjusting to the full family picture again. These professional assistances would have alleviated the change to a new country, new language, culture and environment. Parents did

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not fully use their resources to help Valentine with coping with the trauma of abuse and getting the help he needed for school at home. Once parents realized he was smoking they should have sought professional help and removed themselves from that neighborhood to detached Valentin from the friendship connection he was making.

Young Adulthood 19 years - 40 years

Biological:

At 40 years old he stopped the weed, cocaine and had his 2 sons. Valentin could not be part of his children life due to his addiction and homelessness. He was prescribed glasses and began getting bald at the age of 30. Muscular strength was not the same and he did not play sports as he used to before. He experienced not having the same energy and he used to experience nervous breakdowns. He used to get agitated nervous of anything

Psychological:

Valentin was so deeply involved in his addiction that while he was babysitting his second son, he left him at the train station to go get some merchandise then he felt guilty and shameful. Many situations in his life ended with him feeling depressed, guilty and worthless. His mother died of brain cancer; her death devastated him because she was always opposed to his type of life. He promised his mom many times that he would change, and he was not successful. It made him feel accountable for not making her feel proud during her lifetime. He was never aggressive with his mother and family. Valentin was too involved in the drug world and he could not come out of it. The vicious cycle Valentin was in kept on wearing down his desire to change, which led him to a difficult process of constant relapse. He started to give up fighting it anymore, he

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was not making it anyway. He ran away from his family and slept on the streets many times. Eventually not being part of his children's lives and the memory of his loving mom made him desire to change again. He made good money, once he decided to stop his friends used to humiliate him and encourage him to go back to the drug world and to use it.

Sociological:

He was caught by the police at a drug spot he used to own by the police, and he can remember how a gun in your head feels. He described how he saw many of his friends being shot to death right next to him during his addiction life; He did not want that future for him. He became homeless for weeks even while he was trying to change the vicious cycle. He decided to stop consuming Cocaine even when his friends offered it for free. He removed himself from his "friends" that got him involved and from anyone he used to know from that environment.

Spiritual: He always believes God was with him. Valentine used to pray for strength and fought by himself to not succumb in the addiction again. He visits the Catholic Church with his wife regularly.

Many risk factors can be mentioned at this stage such as the continued exposure to drugs and making money. Valentin could not be fully on his children's life, which used to get him depressed. He feels he missed the best of their lives. His level of assessment on this stage was not at the level with cohorts because of his addiction and the many emotional conflicts he experienced set him back. He had to deal with depression, addiction, low self-esteem and side effects to his health and cognitive abilities

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Valentine kids were also protective factors, they served as a motivation to change because he did not want to miss more of their lives. The death of his mom was hard, but also motivated him to become the man she always wanted him to be.

A parenting and coping program for addiction would help Valentin to deal with many of the situations he encountered during this time. Valentin would have benefited a lot from a family social worker that could; guide him through being a parent and providing the support and information to deal with addiction. Valentine failed to seek help on dealing with trauma frustration and addiction. The social worker would have facilitated important information and assisted him in being properly oriented to resources available to him. He needed a caseworker that also could assist with readjusting to society.

Middle Adulthood: Generativity vs. Stagnation 40 years- 74years

Biological

Valentine is biologically healthy, he does take pills for his cholesterol and blood pressure, he is still regularly active. He does as many exercises as he can do, plays basketball. He had a surgery at his left foot for one of his toes due arthritis and went under surgery for a total knee replacement for arthritis. His wife was the motive he quit cigarettes. He drinks socially. Valentine has been clean for twenty years and counting. A Year ago, a coworker offered him Cocaine and he rejected it. He wants his family to be proud of him and to be an example for his sons, daughter and grandkids. Valentine feels he needs to use more of his memory's capability in

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order to keep the brain functioning at this stage. He has noticed that he is forgetting a lot of information he knew before because he is not using them as often.

Psychological: He met his wife 15 years ago and they are happily married and enjoy an active sexual life. He went to school and got his GED at the age of 50 and started his Associate degree at a university in NYC. Valentin could not finish his Associate degree due to not having the necessary time to dedicate to school; He is a full-time employee and has to work overtime to make afford a living. He is a stateable person psychologically, he feels young and capable of doing anything. Valentin has a high performance at work, and he can do his job with excellence.

He feels he wants to do new things to stimulate his cognition. He is preparing for retirement he is extremely excited and once he is done with retirement, he will get a part-time job and volunteer at his community.

Sociological

Valentine is very sociable at this stage of life. He shares table games such as billiards, cards with family members and friends. He enjoys playing basketball with younger people and coworkers. He plays baseball sometimes. He enjoys getting together with family and cooking for them. Valentine goes to visit his sons, daughter and his grandkids. He has a lot of friends and shares with his coworkers.

Spiritual: Valentin is seeking more for God at this stage, he visits a church in his neighborhood with his wife. He does more meditation and reads the word God to growth spiritually. Goes to a Catholic Church in his neighborhood with his wife regularly.

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First, Valentin's desire to change was the first protective factor at this stage because he decided and remained resilient to it for the first time. His children and the promises made to his mother encouraged him to change his life. His wife was also a positive factor to push him to continue and to remove himself from drugs and support him in getting into the workforce. Another protective factor was completely removing himself from people that can influence him to go back to that life. His development at the end of the stage is at the same level of any other person at his age, he exhibits the same capacities and cognitive ability of anyone his age.

The risk factor at this stage was that he did not have anyone to advocate or guide him through the process of detoxification, he did not have professional support. Valentine ignored many resources available to him that could have helped him in his process. Some of his friends tried to convince him to go back to addiction and selling drugs.

These stages have been reviewed and analyzed through Erickson stages of development. Valentin's life has a direct connection or can be also explained through Marcia's theory. The last stages of Valentin's life show the different stages of Marcia's theory. During Adolescence Valentin at the starting point of his addiction did not have the commitment or alternative, but he wanted to follow his parents' advice of stopping that life and to change which located him at the Foreclosure stage. Still during his adolescence years, he gave up; he did not explore alternatives or made any commitment to change which placed him on the Identity diffusion stage. At the moratorium stage Valentin tried to remove himself, ended up homeless trying to find a path, exploring for alternatives, but he remained in the addiction, did not make commitments. The

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fourth stage Identity Achievement, Valentin made his mind, found alternatives and remained resilient to commitment.

Conclusion

In conclusion Valentin was exposed to many changes that led to a various risk factor that affected his life. If he would have the necessary assistance from psychology, social workers, case workers, after school programs, family therapy, counseling, child protection services and many other resources available him, his story would have been so different. The multidimensional paper had encouraged me to be aware that there is always a way to make a difference. We should not be indifferent before the needs and the shouting for help that are not visible. I could say in an exciting one that, Valentine is a new person, but how amazing would it had been if someone would had recused him before he reached the darkest stages of his life.

Reference

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