

Multidimensional Paper

Cristmarian Aleys

Nyack College

Multidimensional Paper

The Multidimensional assessment is frequently used in the social work field. This assessment helps social workers to evaluate if their clients are functioning in each aspect of their life.

The purpose of this paper is to assess the behavioral functioning of Milagros Santos during each stage of the life span. Milagros Santos was born on August 31, 1966, In San Pedro De Macoris Dominican Republic. She came to the United States on June 19, 1989, at the age of 23. She has eleven siblings and she is the second oldest. She currently lives in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) apartments in Brooklyn with her 22-year-old daughter. Milagros and her daughter have been living in NYCHA for about 21 years. She is currently separated from her husband and they live in different apartments. Milagros's husband still supports her financially.

Pregnancy/ Infancy

Biological Dimension

During this stage of development, the fetus is experiencing different stages of development during the gestational period. These stages are known as the germinal period, embryonic period, fetal period, and the birthing process. (pp.95) The birthing process consists of four different stages. In the first stage, the cervix (opening to the womb) becomes fully dilated (opened). The second stage is pushing the baby down the birth canal and actual birth. The third stage is the delivery of the placenta. Complications during the gestational period or at birth can affect the development of the baby. Some complications include anoxia, growth retardation, toxemia, preeclampsia, poor nutrition, and substance abuse. (pp.95)

When applying this to Milagro's life she doesn't know a lot of information about her mother's pregnancy with her. The pregnancy and delivery were great. Milagros was born through vaginal birth. There were no complications during the pregnancy or during birth. The complications started three hours after birth. Milagros had an overproduction of mucus that traveled to her lungs. After birth, she stayed in the NICU for about a week. The doctors told her mother that because she ate too much sugar cane while pregnant, this caused Milagros to develop an overproduction of mucus. Eventually, she was diagnosed with asthma. Asthma is a respiratory condition that causes an overproduction of mucus in a person's body. As a result, the airways of a person with asthma become narrow and this causes difficulty breathing. Asthma is a hereditary disease in Milagros's family. Her father and all of his siblings were diagnosed with asthma. She also had a delay in her physical growth. She wasn't growing at normal speed that babies her age are supposed to growth

Psychological Dimension

In this stage of development, the fetus responds to various types of stimulation. It was once thought that before birth the fetus couldn't experience sensation, emotion, learning, personality, or thought. This information was inaccurate because the fetus responds to sound, light, touch, and the mother's emotional state. (pp. 96-97) The fetus recognizes the sound of their parent's voice especially the voice of their mother.

Milagros was learning in her mother's womb. She learned to differentiate between her parent's voices and stranger's voices. She always responded well to the sound of her mother and father's voice. When other people would talk to her mother's belly she didn't have the same excitement as he did for her parents. In the Dominican Republic, people use motorcycles as a form of

transportation. Whenever a motorcycle would go by Milagro's mother while she was pregnant, Milagros would get startled in the womb. Still, to this day, she does not like the sound of motorcycles. This shows that the fetus does respond to various stimulation.

Social Dimension

In this dimension, babies need to receive adequate love and care from their caregivers. They need to feel safe at home with stimulating play and interesting toys. (pp.107)

When applying this to Milagro's life, She grew up in a wealthy family, with a housemaid and she had tons of toys to play with. Milagros was eight months old when her mother and father came to the United States, leaving her behind with her great grandmother.

In Erikson's theory, the first stage of development speaks about trust vs mistrust. This stage begins at birth and continues until 18 months of age. During this stage, an infant is doubtful about the world in which they live. Infants usually look towards their caregivers for stability and consistency. When an infant receives constant care from their caregivers then they develop a sense of security that they will carry into all of their relationships. If they don't feel secure and cared for by their caregivers then they will develop a sense of mistrust and this will carry into all of their future relationships.

Milgros's parents returned to the Dominican Republic when she was 18 months old. She didn't even recognize her parents, because the last time she saw them was at eight months old. Milagros grew up to believe that her great grandparents were her biological parents. She didn't trust or love her biological parents, she cried when one of them tried to hold her.

Spiritual Dimension

In this dimension, many societies and cultures have rituals that welcome the baby as a new member. The majority of male infants in the country are circumcised at birth but it is no longer routinely done. (pp.112) Milagros's family welcomed her into the world with a celebration that almost lasted until the next day. In Hispanic families, these parties tend to last until the following day. According to Fowler's faith stages of development, the pre-stage explains that from birth to about 2 years old children experience faith in their relationship with their caregivers.

Milagros was raised a catholic. She attended church with her nanny every Sunday at 7 am. She was baptized at the age of 2 years old in the catholic church. It is a custom to baptize newborns to protect them from sin and also for the benefit of their future.

Strengths or Protective factors

A strength and protective factor is that her biological parent's entrusted Milagros to her grandparents and they took care of her while her parents were in the United States. Her grandparents didn't have to take care of her however they did. Some parents have no support when it comes to taking care of their children. The fact that her parents were able to leave her with grandparents, while they searched for a better opportunity in the United States, shows that they had a strong support system.

Weaknesses or Risk factors

Weaknesses or risk factors are that she developed asthma because of this hereditary disease on her father's side of the family. Another risk factor is that her mother ate sugar cane almost every day and this also played a huge part in the overproduction of mucus in her body, which was later diagnosed as chronic asthma. Being that she was sick her grandparents were really

overprotective over her. She didn't really have much interaction with other babies because her grandparents were scared that she would get sicker. She was also delayed in physical development. She wasn't crawling or walking at the appropriate time. Her parents moved to America in order to provide an even better future for her and her siblings. They were financially present but emotionally absent.

Overall assessment of functioning

I would say that her overall functioning at this stage wasn't so great. She became very dependent on her grandparents. She really didn't spend time with other babies because she was a sick child and her grandparents were afraid that she would get sicker. Babies are supposed to develop physically by a certain age. Milagros was not crawling, walking, or growing at the appropriate time for a baby of her age. Milagro's parents had a strong support system. They were able to leave Milagros and two other siblings with their grandparents so they could come to the United states. Her parents were financially present but emotionally absent. Her parents provided all the financial support but they were not interested in her emotional well being.

Early Childhood

Biological Dimension

In this stage of development, children start to develop gross motor skills and fine motor skills. (pp.180) Physical growth and motor development are important because children learn how to run, jump, climb on, and off of things. Proper nutrition is essential. Parents should expose children to a variety of foods and they should avoid making separate meals for children who are picky eaters. (pp.180) The second stage of Erikson's theory speaks about Autonomy vs shame and doubt. This stage of development happens between the ages of 18 months to 3 years old.

During this stage, children are physically developing and discovering that they have different skills and abilities such as picking what toys to play with, clothes to wear and what to eat.

Milagros was a really picky eater. She hardly ate any of the food that was prepared in her house. She always wanted something different to eat. Her family only prepared three meals a day and they didn't give in to her picky eating habits. She was a super active child. Her family called her monkey because she was always climbing, running, and jumping on things. Her physical development has improved since the infancy years but it is still slow. Her asthma was hindering her physical development.

Psychological Dimension

During this dimension children are starting to develop a self concept. This stage is a time of fanciful, creative and imaginative thoughts in a child's life. (pp.184) During this stage children acquire language, information processing, emotional coaching. (pp.178) Erikson describes this third stage of psychosocial development as Initiative vs. Guilt. In this stage children are playing and interacting with other children at school. They begin to plan activities, make up games and they initiate games.

Milagros was chronic asthamtic and so her grandparents were scared that other children would get her even more sick so they didn't allow her to interact with other children. She was very creative and imaginative. Since she couldn't interact with other children Milagros had a lot of imaginative thoughts and lived in a fantasy world. She was a good storyteller at such a young age. People of all different ages that lived in her neighborhood would go to her house just to listen to her fictional stories about kingdoms, princes, princesses and traveling the world.

Milagros was very well spoken for her age, many people were so fascinated by her ability to speak so well and her information processing skills.

Social Dimension

In this dimension it states that parenting styles, mother and father roles are important for the development of the child. There are three styles of parenting. The first one is authoritarian, the second one is authoritative, and the third one is permissive and this one includes two subtypes that are neglectful and indulgent. (pp. 230)

Both of Milagros's grandparents had an authoritarian parenting style. Her grandfather made up the majority of the rules in the house. Her grandmother made some of the rules of the house but she was also submissive to her husband. Everyone in the household had to follow the rules or there would be consequences. Milagros's grandfather used to get drunk and he would hit her everytime that he was drunk. Sometimes he did it without having a reason. Her grandmother would never do anything to stop Milagros's grandfather from brutally beating her because she was afraid of getting hit. All that she did was tell him that he shouldn't be doing that but she never did anything to help Milagros out of this traumatizing situation.

Spiritual Dimension

According to Fowler, the first faith stage occurs from ages 3 to 7 children cognitively developing. They are unable to think abstractly or see the world like others can. In this stage they also learn customs of the religious community that they belong to.

Milagros's grandparents would force her to go to church at 7am. She hated going to church because she would have to wake up at 5 am, in order to be at church on time. The church was 45 minutes away from her house, so they had to leave early from home. Her grandparents did not

attend church but they made her and her sisters attend 7am sharp. She would go to church with her nanny, while her grandparents prepared Sunday dinner.

Strengths or Protective factors

One strength factor is that she was very well spoken and that she had a very big imagination. She had such a big imagination that people from her neighborhood from adults, children and adolescents would go to her house just to listen to her speak. She made up stories about kingdoms, Princes, Princesses and traveling around the world. So many would gather around for Three hours or more just to listen to a four year old child that was making up stories from her imagination. This shows how much impact Milagros and her made up stories had on the people around her.

Weaknesses or Risk factors

A risk factor is that Milagros's grandfather used to get intoxicated and every time that this happened, Milagros would suffer the consequences. Her grandfather got so drunk and everytime he would brutally beat Milagros for no reason. Her grandmother was scared of him when he was in this stage of intoxication that she allowed him to beat his own grandchild. He never verbally apologized for brutally beating her every time he got drunk, because back in her country adults didn't apologize to children even if they were wrong. His way of apologizing was by taking her to different amusement parks and buying her all the toys that she picked out .

Overall assessment of functioning

I would say that her overall functioning in this stage is good although she went through some traumatic experiences. Milagros was brutally beaten by her drunk grandfather. Getting physically abused in such a way definitely caused some psychological trauma in Milagros. She never

understood why her grandfather only hit her and not her other siblings. Despite the physical abuse that she was receiving from someone whom she truly loved and admired, Milagros managed to still have a creative and big imagination. She decided to escape from her reality by creating a fantasy world that she would constantly travel to. The stories that she made up were so realistic that many adults believed that these stories were non fictional. Her level of maturity at such a young age and her ability to still have a creative imagination while she was going through this psychological trauma is mesmerizing.

Middle Childhood

Biological Dimension

In this stage children experience a slow but consistent growth pattern. (pp.241) Girls retain more fat tissue than boys. Boys start to develop muscle tissue quicker than girls. As stated before Milagros's physical development improved from her infancy years to her early childhood years. After this improvement her physical development stayed at the same slow pace. She was physically growing but at a very slow pace. Milagros was short for her age and she was constantly getting asthma attacks. Having asthma prevented her from participating in activities like other kids of her age. Her grandparents didn't really allow her to go outside because of her asthma. Milagros wasn't really active, she didn't walk much or did any exercise so she gained a lot of weight.

Psychological Dimension

In middle childhood children operate from concrete operational thought. Concrete operational thought means that every thought process is governed by rules. (pp. 242) Children in this stage

cannot use the logic of formal operations to compare the ideal with actual or think hypothetically.

In Erikson's stages of development this stage is considered industry vs inferiority. This stage occurs ages five to twelve. Children learn how to read, write and do math. A child's friends have a huge significance in that child's self esteem. Children try to gain the approval of their peers by showing their accomplishments. Milagros wasn't getting good grades in school because she was bullied a lot and she was always fighting at school. At home her grandfather taught to defend herself whenever someone wanted to attack her. Milagros went to school to learn but she always ended up trying to defend herself from her bullies. In the sixth grade she fought so much and was always in detention. She almost had to repeat sixth grade because she missed an exam due to fighting. In her native country whenever you fought you had to stand in front of the principal's office until dismissal time. Milagros did not repeat the sixth grade because her teacher allowed her to take the test in her home. One of her friends lent her the book so that she could study and she passed that exam with 100 percent. After this situation Milagros started to be more invested in her class work.

Social Dimension

During this stage children prefer to spend with their peers than with parents. They begin to form groups such as cliques. Cliques are groups of friends that constantly hangout together. (pp.276)

Milagros associated with a lot of people in school but she only had one real friend. She spent a lot of time with her best friend and sometimes she would get jealous of her best friend for hanging out with her other friends.

Spiritual Dimension

Fowler describes this stage as mythic-literal faith. This stage occurs from 6 to 12 years old. In this stage children's source of religious authority starts to expand past parents and trusted adults to others in their community like teachers and friends. Faith becomes the stories told and the rituals practiced. In this stage Milagros was really religious. She was raised to be a devout catholic. Her family prayed two times a day. They would also light up a lot of candles for every individual saint and also to keep bad spirits from entering their home.

Strengths or Protective factors

A strength factor would be that she passed sixth grade and that she began to be more invested in her class work. She was a very bright child but her focus was on fighting and defending herself that she didn't have time to study. When she thought that she would fail sixth grade that changed her perspective on school. As stated before Milagros didn't go to school to fight but she had to defend herself since the adults in her school were not defending her. Once she had this scare her perspective on school changed. Milagros decided to stop fighting. Her bullies learned that she was able to defend herself so they left her alone.

Weaknesses or Risk factors

One risk factor is that she would always get bullied in school and this caused her to be fighting all the time. She didn't want to fight in school but the adults in the school never punished her bullies so she decided to defend herself. Being bullied caused her to question people's intentions towards her. She grew up to believe that people always have a second motive.

Overall assessment of functioning

The functioning during this stage was not good. She constantly got tormented by girls who were older and bigger than her. She was told by her grandfather to defend herself whenever someone

wanted to attack her so she did what he told her to do. Everytime those girls would bother her she defended herself. This caused her to miss a lot of class because she was in detention. In sixth Milagros was almost left behind because she missed a final exam. She passed the class because her teacher allowed her to take the exam at her house. After this Milagros was more invested in her class work and she began to receive A's in all her classes.

Adolescence

Biological Dimension

In Adolescence teenagers experience a growth spurt in which they gain weight and height.

Adolescence begins with puberty. (pp.292) Puberty is identified as the combination of growth spurt, maturation of the psychological mechanisms and the development of the secondary sex characteristics. Boys begin to develop facial hair and get wet dreams. Girls start to menstruate.

(pp.292) Milagros got her period at 13 years old. She thought that her period wasn't ever going to come, because most of her sisters and friends had already gotten their period. When she got her period she was at the hair salon getting her hair washed. It was the most embarrassing moment of her life, no one in the salon noticed so she immediately went home. Once she got home her neighbor who is a male told her that she was stained. This made her feel even more humiliated then before. Milagros's body developed significantly, she was no longer a chubby girl. She had a beautifully shaped body. Many girls were jealous of her body so they started rumors saying that she got plastic surgery but she didn't get any plastic surgery.

Psychological Dimension

Adolescence is Piaget's last intellectual stage. During this time adolescents are about 11 to 12 years old. Adolescents are capable of understanding abstract propositions and they try to reason

logically about them. (pp.292) Adolescents can switch between extreme moods quickly, in contrast with adults, who take hours to change moods. (pp.311) When comparing this to Milagros she experienced a lot of changes in her mood. During this time Milagros would cry a lot. She was highly sensitive and would cry everyday on her grandparents porch. She mentions that it became a habit to cry. Milagros explained that sometimes she would find herself crying for no reason, just because she wanted to cry. Milagros was very analytic during her adolescent years. Her neighbors, the same ones that listened to her made up stories would go to her for personal advice. Many believed that she was too young to be giving advice to adults, but the adults were the ones seeking advice from her.

Social Dimension

In her adolescent years Milagros became more independent after turning 18 years old. After her birthday she started to take control of her own life. Prior to her 18th birthday her grandparents didn't allow her to visit any friends or family because they were ordered by her parents not to let her go anywhere. Her only social life was at school with her friends. Once she turned 18 years old she started to go out and visit friends and family members. She was working in a factory where she earned a lot of money. Her grandparents and her parents couldn't control her anymore because she was 18 years old and because she earned her own money. Milagros was able to socialize more, go out with her friends and make new friends, something that she could not do before.

Spiritual Dimension

In this stage Fowler explains that people claim their faith as their own instead of being what their family wants them to believe in. At 18 years old Milagros started to attend church because she

wanted to go. Since her infancy years she had been forced to attend church. Now she is going because she likes attending. Milagros was involved in the adolescence ministry. Milagros went from hating the church to loving the catholic church. She participated in all the church events and she had so many church friends. The youth of her church would always hangout and go on trips together. Milagros was named the coordinator of all the youth events and she also was in charge of the children's ministry.

Strengths or Protective factors

A strength is that she didn't allow her parents or grandparents to control her life anymore. She never disrespected them when she took control of her life, but she made it clear that they weren't going to treat her like a prisoner anymore. After turning 18 she was more independent and didn't financially depend on her parents or grandparents. She was able to make new friends and visit her family.

Weaknesses or Risk factors

Her parents were controlling her social life by telling her grandparents not to let her go anywhere. Not allowing her to visit family members or friends all of this affected her life tremendously. Milagros was treated like a prisoner at home. The only time she went out was when she went to school, when they went out as a family and when she went to the library, other than that she was always at home.

Overall assessment of functioning

The overall functioning of Milagros in her adolescence was really good. She was growing and evolving. Her entire life was controlled by her parents who were living in the United States and

grandparents. She never had an opinion in the decisions that were made regarding her life. Everything changed when Milagros turned 18 years old because she took control of her own life. She still lived with her grandparents but they no longer controlled her life. Milagros was able to socialize more and do things that for 17 years she was prohibited from doing. She was able to go out with friends and visit all her family members. Although her life was controlled for so many years she finally had the courage to stand up for her freedom. I like that she never disrespected her parents or grandparents for treating her like a prisoner. She forgave her parents and grandparents for the psychological, physical and emotional abuse. She would also pray for them daily.

Emerging and Young Adulthood

Biological Dimension

This stage is the peak of physical development, loss of muscle and increase in fat weight and development of health patterns. (pp. 349) Women in their early 20's have a mature reproductive system and are able to produce fertile eggs. Erikson describes this stage as intimacy vs isolation. This stage takes place from ages 18 to 40 years old. During stage individuals began to share more intimate information with others. They explore relationships that could potentially lead to longer term commitments with someone other than a family member.

Milagros was very healthy and in shape in her early 20's. She would always workout at home or in the local parks in her neighborhood. Her body kept developing and even more people believed the rumors that she had plastic surgery done on her. Milagros was still suffering from asthma but it improved over the years. She was no longer having frequent asthma attacks like before. When it comes to dating Milagros didn't have a dating life. She rarely had any boyfriends. The boys

that she was interested in were always interested in someone else or they never wanted any real commitment.

Her first boyfriend was her husband that she is now separated from.

Psychological Dimension

In this stage of development people are in Piaget's last stage of development called formal operation. In this stage young adults begin to develop meaningful relationships that can lead to marriage. Milagros and her husband communicated a lot at the beginning of their marriage. They were so in love and their communication was excellent at the beginning of their marriage. Their communication and their love for one another decreased over the years.

Social Dimension

In this dimension marriage and the emergence of family becomes one of the most significant life changes in the young adulthood years. (pp. 371) Milagros met her husband the first week of her coming to the United States. They dated for 8 months, got engaged and then got married. In their second year of marriage Milagros got pregnant with her first child. Milagros continued to work while she was pregnant. Milagros gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. Six years later Milagros got pregnant with her second child and this time it was a girl. Both of the children were healthy. Milagros was living with her grandmother and other siblings crammed in a one bedroom apartment. Eventually Milagros got her own apartment and each of her children got their own room. Everything was going great for Milagros and her family but then a tragedy happened. Her son was killed due to gun violence in their community. Milagros and her husband's relationship was rocky and after the death of their son their relationship became non-existing. Her husband

cheated on her shortly after their son's death. This sudden death and infidelity devastated milagros. She was extremely depressed.

Spiritual Dimension

Milagros found a catholic church to attend in the United States and she attended Sunday services regularly. Milagros kept the tradition of her family back in Dominican Republic. She would light up candles for all the saints that catholic people believed in. She also believed in spiritual readings and rituals for abundance. Milagros became a christian when her sister was about to die and when she realized that all the saints that she believed in, had no power to heal her sister. God healed her sister and she became a christian, it's been about 15 years now.

Strengths or Protective factors

A strength factor is that she was healthy during her early 20's. Milagros would workout in her home and she would always take care of her body. Many girls in her neighborhood were envious of her and desired to have a body like hers. They would start rumors about her getting plastic surgery but it was not true. Another strength is that her asthma improved during this time as well. She wasn't getting constant asthma attacks.

Weaknesses or Risk factors

One weakness or risk factors is that her marriage went down the drain. There was infidelity in their marriage. She became depressed after the death of her son. Milagros and her husband started to bottle up their emotions. They hardly spoke to each other. This dysfunctional relationship also affected their daughter. The whole family was dysfunctional and needed therapy but they never went to therapy because they didn't make time to seek professional help.

Overall assessment of functioning

I would say that the overall functioning in this stage of development was not good at all.

Milagros's marriage wasn't good before her son's passing and after he passed away things got worse. Their daughter was having a hard time accepting the loss of her brother. She was barely eating anything, In fact she was losing weight. Shortly after her son died her husband decided to cheat on her so it was a lot of pain and betrayal that was going on in Milagros's life. Milagros is grieving her son and she's also grieving her marriage. She went through a very difficult time during this stage. I love her strength and perseverance. She forgave the man who killed her son and she forgave her husband for cheating on her. They are no longer together, but I'm glad she forgave them because forgiveness isn't for the people that hurt you it's for you.

Middle Adulthood

Biological Dimension

In Middle Adulthood individuals look back to their younger self and for the first time they see and feel significant negative physical changes or losses. Most individuals are less fit, with a fuller body-shape. (pp. 405) During this stage women go through a period called menopause. Menopause occurs from ages 40 to 60. Menopause is when a woman does not experience her menstrual cycle for a year. Middle adulthood is described as generativity vs stagnation, the 7th stage of Erikson's theory of development. This stage takes place from ages 40 to 65 years old. In this stage adults want to create or nurture things that will outlast them and they will make positive changes that will benefit other people.

Milagros had a surgery where they removed her uterus because she had fibroids in her uterus. She is now experiencing menopause in her middle adulthood years.

After giving birth Milagros gained a lot of weight. She was also taking prednisone pills that helps control asthma attacks and this also contributed weight gain. Milagros was over 200 hundred pounds a few months after giving birth. She's never been this overweight not even in her younger years of life. Milagros is no longer working out and she is not as healthy as she was in her early 20's. Milagros has always liked to write. She writes songs, poetry, and plays for people in her church to sing, read and perform. Milagros has also created adult and youth support groups for the members in her church.

Psychological Dimension

In this stage of development adults move closer to doing a life review or seeking more meaning, they reassess their communication with others. Milagros explains that she had a mixed life, she was both happy and unhappy. She experienced a lot of pain and suffering but she also experienced a lot of happy moments. She explains that her happy moments outweigh the sad moments. Coming to the United States changed her life completely, she was exposed to so many different cultures and people. She got married and she had two beautiful kids. She's grateful despite the tragic loss of her only son and the ending of her marriage. She's also grateful for having accepted Christ as her one and only. She explains that if she didn't have a relationship with Christ she would have not survived her son's death.

Social Dimension

As mentioned before coming to the United States completely changed Milagros's life. Milagros was exposed to many different people, cultures and food. In her native country people care for the needs of one another and she was shocked to find out that most people in New York State like to mind their own business and they don't really care about other people's needs besides their

own. She attended Asa college and she graduated with an associate's degree in medical assistance. She was employed as a medical assistant in a clinic in her neighborhood. In this clinic she learned about different races and ethnicities that she did not know about. Her colleagues were from different countries so she learned about different kinds of food that she now loves to make at home. She experienced a lot of diversity in New York State and this was something that she was not used to back at home.

Spiritual Dimension

Milagros remains a Christian. She goes to church on tuesdays, wednesdays and sundays. She is also in charge of the youth choir in her church. All the youth members love her and call her aunt, her daughter is also part of the youth choir. Milagros is grateful to God because he saved her from the darkness that she was living in. While she was a catholic she saw a lot of ghosts, because her family believed in witchcraft. They would light up candles for the saints and all these bad spirits were in her home, but when God came into her heart and her home all these spirits fled from her home.

Strengths or Protective factors

A strength would be that even though she experienced a lot of suffering she is grateful for the good and the bad times. She is grateful for the bad because it has shaped her to be the woman that she is today. Milagros is also grateful for the good times because those times made her forget the bad ones. She is just so blessed that God has not abandoned her or her daughter during their healing process. Everyday she feels stronger in christ.

Weaknesses or Risk factors

A weakness would be that she didn't take care of her health after giving birth. She didn't really care for her physical appearance after giving birth. Milagos stopped working out and eating healthy. She started to self sabotage. Her husband also contributed to her weight gain, he would bring so many kinds of desserts when he knew she was on a diet. She would eat all the junk food that he would buy and now she is overweight and diabetic.

Overall assessment of functioning

Milagros's overall functioning was good during this stage. Despite the pain that she experienced she used her pain to preserve in life. Sometimes people ask her how she is so strong after losing her son and her only answer is God. God gives her strength to continue, if it wasn't for God who knows if she would even be alive. Milagros uses her pain to help other people with their healing process and that shows her resilience. She didn't let her pain stop her from working or serving God. Milagros kept going because she has a daughter that needs her.

Conclusion

Overall Milagros's life was filled with alot misfortune, health problems and significant loss. Milagros was able to overcome these unfortunate circumstances with the help of God, her family and her brothers and sisters in Christ. Her ability to forgive those who hurt her the most show how strong she is. Many people aren't able to forgive infidelity but Milagros forgave her husband and she forgave the man who killed her son that is so amazing because she no longer carries hate or resentment in her heart. Coming to America exposed her to a variety of cultures. She never met so many different people before. She learned about peoples cultures, customs and food. Milagros grew such a deep love for different foods that she began to cook them in her home and

she shared the recipes with her family as well. Two theories that applied to Milagros's life are Erikson stages of psychosocial development and Fowler's stages of faith. I believe that Milagros wasn't able to properly grieve her son's death because she still had responsibilities. I think that therapy would be good for her and her family. They have ignored these feelings for so long and I think it's time they face these feelings of grief. Seeking professional help will help Milagros and her family become a functional family. This class has taught me that people come from different walks of life and that as social workers we have to meet them where they are at. Before this class I did not know what a multidimensional assessment was or how to create one myself. In this class I was exposed to a lot of new things. I learned about diseases that different racial groups experience and the different stages of the life span, I never knew that there were so many stages of development. I learned from every chapter but my favorite one was the pregnancy, birth and newborn chapter. I liked how everything was explained and broken down. When I become a licensed social worker, I will be dealing with all kinds of clients and this class has taught me to let go of my biased opinions and to serve all clients with dignity and respect.

Bibliography

Ashford, J. B., LeCroy, C. W., & Williams, L. R. (2017). Human behavior in the social environment : a multidimensional perspective (6th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. ISBN:

978-1-305-86030-8

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/wholeness/workshop2/167602.shtml>

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/Erik-Erikson.html>