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Human Behavior II
Reflection 3

1-Describe relevant environmental effects on prenatal development.

The environment has an influence on development during the prenatal period. During this period in pregnancy there are many potential dangers the mother and child are faced with. However, some of these hazardous behaviors can be avoided for a healthy birth.

The increased risk for pregnancy, birth and the Newborn are related to drug use, miscarriage, premature birth, birth defect and still birth.

Teratogens are many agents the unborn child is expose to that contribute to birth defect. During pregnancy there are many risks to the mother and child. Most time mothers are unaware of the risk that could harm their child. Some of these risks are alcohol, smoking, toxic chemicals, radiation, viruses' diseases, and drugs use.

According to researchers, "it is estimated that ten percent of all death defects are caused by prenatal exposure to Teratogens". Some factors that can expose infants to birth defects is, drugs, alcohol, and diseases, including stress and environments. (Ashford et al - 2018; Pg 86)

Drugs use over time can cause a serious effect to the child. Drug can lower birthweight, withdrawal symptoms, birth defects or learning or behavioral issues in children. Infants born with drugs addictions are likely to become addicted to drugs when they are adults.

Most mothers having children for the first time are young, and they are not aware of teratogens exposure to their newborn and the harm it causes. Women living in certain environment may suffer high rate of miscarriages due to toxic chemicals in their areas, or by smoking and drinking alcohol. About 4 to 5 percent of birth defects are caused by teratogens. Some of these malformations are, spina bifida, cleft palate or microcephaly, including hearing and vision problems. Mother in their 20's or teenagers have healthier babies but the health of their women has decline due to poor living condition and unsafe health habits. (Ashford et al - 2018; Pg 85)

It is possible that mothers who drink alcohol may give birth to babies with health problem like; thyroid disorders or learning disabilities. The first 3 months of pregnancy is a very curious time

in pregnancy. Mothers must learn to make good judgement for her child by avoiding bad habits. Babies who are exposed to drugs are difficult to care for and may be at risk of abuse and neglect.

Erickson first stage of trust allows the babies to be nurtured and cradled to feel safe and secure. This trust allows the babies to develop positive attachments to their mothers or caregivers. Babies can develop a sense of self attachment toward their caregivers. Social development and physical bonding are important for the child physical and emotional well-being. (Ashford et al - 2018pg 23)

Separating a mother from her child during the first postpartum hour can damage the formation of bonding with serious consequences of maternal behavior and child development. Baby experience despair phase when their caregiver leaves them for a period showing misery and apathy.

Reference:

Ashford, J. B., Lecroy, C. W., & Williams, L. (2018). *Human behavior in the social environment: a multidimensional perspective* (6th ed.). Cengage Learning.