

PSY 441

Erikson Question 2

Adolescence Identity versus Role Confusion is the fifth psychosocial stage of personality development that takes place between the ages of 13-19 years old. It plays a pivotal role in the developmental process of one's identity, with a focus on specific elements such as ideals, values, and beliefs. These factors are important in that they help shape and guide the formation of a person's identity. Successful completion of this stage entails developing a sense of self which includes satisfaction with both personal and professional goals as well as the ability to display confidence in coping skills. The inability to remain constant to self gives way to role confusion.

Intimacy versus Isolation is the sixth stage of Erikson's personality development process, the age range during this period is 20-24. During this stage, young adults focus on exploring and cultivating intimate loving relationships with other people and ensuring that the relationships that are established are lasting. Being able to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to these relationships is significant. An individual who constantly experiences challenges in maintaining relationships is said to have a poor sense of self and eventually succumb to emotional isolation and loneliness.

#### Question 4

One of the strengths of Erikson's theory is it presents a developmental outline of the entire lifespan of the life of a person including the impact that social relationships have on the development of our personalities. Although his theory is encompassed by various elements of strengths, there are also some signs of weaknesses. Erikson placed great emphasis on the importance of individuality in his theory, yet his inconsistency in the use of various definitions when referring to identity is an indication of the lack of merit. Throughout his psychosocial theory, Erikson focuses primarily on the male gender instead of both male and female, which creates it difficult or impossible to determine an outcome. The stages in Erickson's personality development require you to complete each stage successfully in order to move on to the next. The experiences that determine growth and development are specific experiences that serve as a prerequisite, unfortunately, Erikson's theory failed to provide detailed and specific explanations needed to be promoted from one stage to another.

Erik Erikson was born June 15, 1902, in Germany and was initially raised by his mother Karla Abrahamsen who later marry his pediatrician Dr. Theodore Homberger, whose last name was given to Erikson in an effort to conceal the mystery of his identity. The revelation of which birth in him a quest to unravel the formation of his identity. He became quite perplexed as clues of his identity emerges and moved to Europe in his young adult years. Then later began teaching in Vienna where he met Freud's daughter who later introduced him to her father after which they were able to work together. Although he failed to complete University, Erik Erikson pursued study in psychoanalyst at Vienna psycho-analytical society. During his studies, he met and marry Joan Serson a Canadian-American woman. In 1933 Erikson along with his wife and two sons migrated to the USA. He continued to teach at various universities including California, Yale, and Harvard. In his later years, Erikson published books on his theories and research including *Childhood and Society* and *Gandhi's Truth* which received honorary awards. Today his 8 stages of personality development theory are still being used in universities, and companies among others.