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Unit Seven: Chapter Fourteen/Fifteen

Chapter Fourteen

6. Discuss the causes of conduct disorder.

The causes of conduct disorder consist of several factors that contribute to their destructive behavior. Comer (2016) mentions that, “Children whose parents reject, leave, coerce, or abuse them or fail to provide appropriate and consistent supervision are apparently more likely to develop conduct problems” (p. 474).

8. What are the symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder that make it so troublesome? What forms of therapy are most effective?

The symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder that make it troublesome would be their short attention span and hyperattention that affects them daily. Comer (2016) mentions that, “Children who have trouble focusing attention may keep turning from task to task until they end up trying to run in several directions at once. Similarly, children who move constantly may find it hard to attend to tasks or show good judgement” (p. 480). The main forms of therapy that are effective would be behavioral therapy, in addition to drug therapy - Ritalin.

13. Explain child abuse and its negative impact.

Child abuse is a combination of mistreatment as it relates to physical and mental abuse, and also associated with neglect pertaining to providing the child’s basic needs. The negative impacts can result in the children suffering from mental health disorders, imprisonment, drug and alcohol abuse, as well as repeated offenders.

17. Watch the video “Understanding Autism” below and then answer the following questions: What does this program suggest about the causes of autism? Why do you think those with autism are typically unable to infer others’ states of mind and what are the likely consequences of this difficulty? What does the study of autism present in this program tell about the relationship between nature and nurture?

The program suggests that the causes of autism are related to the lack of neural responses that prevents them from being able to differentiate the difference between their family and a stranger. Their lack of eye contact also results in poor imitation that results in them having a hard time relating to others – they only see them one way. The consequences of poor imitation results in them lacking the ability to detect danger, as well as becoming vulnerable to others that mean them harm, in addition to poor social skills. The study of autism presented in this program tell us about the relationship between nature and nurture. Nature meaning the genetic factors relating to autism, and nurture based on the treatment related to early intervention to build social skills.

Chapter Fifteen

29. Explain the impact of stress in later life.

The impact of stress in later life can be a result of losing a spouse and adult children, retirement, getting older as well as chronic illnesses.

30. Explain the impact of anxiety disorders in later life.

The impact of anxiety disorders in later life are mainly based on medical illnesses. Comer (2016) mentions that, “Declining health, for example, has often been pointed to, and in fact, older persons who have significant medical illnesses or injuries report more anxiety than those who are healthy or injury-free” (p. 505).

34. How common is substance use among the elderly?

Substance abuse is not as common amongst the elderly, because as they age, they are prone to medical illnesses. These medical illnesses prevent the elderly from using any substances. Comer (2016) mentions that, “The majority of older adults do not misuse alcohol or other substances, even though aging can sometimes be a time of considerable stress and in our society people often turn to alcohol and drugs during time of stress” (p. 507).

37. Watch the video “A Case Study of Alzheimer's” below and then answer the following questions: Identify the stage(s) of Alzheimer's disease through which this patient has progressed. What symptoms helped you identify the stages? Based on the comments of the individuals in these clips, how do you think this disease affects the loved ones of people suffering from Alzheimer's disease?

The patient was in the late stage of Alzheimer's disease that would be considered a diagnosis of major neurocognitive disorder. The symptoms that helped me to identify this stage would be based on the patients decline in memory, social awareness, hiding her belongings, not recognizing her daughter, and lack of motor skills. Based on the comments, you can tell that the patient's loved ones were affected based on the stories that they told regarding her former life before Alzheimer's. It appeared to me that they were holding on to their past memories of her

and not their present memories. I believe that this was the family's way of coping with the mental effects of her Alzheimer's disease.

Reference

Comer, J. & Comer R.J. (2016). *Fundamentals of abnormal psychology (9th Ed.)*. New York: Worth Publishers.