

Developmental psychology: A life-span approach

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INTRODUCTION

Starting from first inception in 1953, the book entitled “Developmental Psychology: A Life Span Approach”, (Fifth Edition and 59th reprint 2016) authored by Elizabeth B. Hurlock, published by McGraw Hill Education (India) Private Limited, Chennai, with ISBN-13:978-0-07-099363-1 and ISBN-10:0-07-099363-7 having contents including preface, fourteen (14) chapters, index and four hundred seventy seven (477) pages, is a detailed work of the author and has been presented after including several changes categorically mentioned in nine (9) steps . The book is really a massive work of the author. It includes every aspect of life span starting from pre-birth to old age. It gives a textual profile of different types of psychological identification that helps in understanding the relationship structure of family and society. The book starts with the meaning of developmental change within life spans as prenatal period, infancy, babyhood, early childhood, late childhood, puberty, adolescence, early adulthood: personal and social adjustments, early adulthood: vocational and family adjustments, middle age: personal and social adjustment, middle age: vocational and family adjustments, old age: personal and social adjustment and old age: vocational and family adjustment. This shows that the book emphasizes on certain existing socio-cultural and environmental factors for the study of development stages.

The book also remains concerns with some hazards in understanding of developmental stage phenomenon. Between personal and social understanding of developmental issues, the role of moral attitude and sex determination are basically focused. Recent focus of scientific research was mainly targeted on the adolescence and old age life span, the book breaks this presumption by looking the concern of happiness and unhappiness with changes of physical and psychological necessity. Although, the book contains a detailed description of developmental psychology structure based on the relationship of biological and psychological identity specifically but one pertinent aspect related to gender seems slightly away as there are various kinds of identities based on the relationship of sexuality (biology specifically), psychology and gender. This relationship based identities are available in families and society with certain gender stereotypes and prejudices. This results the revocation of existing socio-

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cultural norms approved by the society through various transformed identities under the umbrella term transsexual and transgender just like male to female (trans-woman) and female to male (trans-man). It is generally known with sexual deformity, mental disorder, gender disorder, abnormality, etc. The beginning of conceptual understanding of masculinity and femininity within individual takes a shape of development of heterosexuality (available at page no. 245) that has another aspect of development of homosexuality. This aspect is not limited up to a particular age group but can be traced in different age group of life span. The book needs to include this aspect of development in present context.

Although, this book review has taken a non-traditional and unconventional root of discussion but it is a reality. Through this book review, the reviewer submits and proposes a critical view in contrast of following definite and predictable patterns of development that are similar for all. The book reviewer hopes that the author shall take into consideration reviewer's submission keeping in view the updates available in the society and a need to start and include modifications in existing literature on the basis of research in particular area. The book is very helpful for the students and academic fraternity of various disciplines of psychology *i.e.* child psychology, social psychology, clinical psychology, etc. study in general and developmental psychology in particular.
