

Developmental Psychology

1. Introduction

Developmental psychology is the study of how and why human beings change over the course of their lives. It is a branch of psychology that focuses on the growth and maturation of the human mind and body. The field is interdisciplinary, drawing on insights from biology, sociology, and other disciplines to understand the complex processes of development.

2. Key Concepts

2.1. Nature vs. Nurture

This debate centers on the relative contributions of genetic factors (nature) and environmental factors (nurture) to human development. While nature provides the blueprint, nurture shapes the final outcome.

2.2. Plasticity

Plasticity refers to the brain's ability to reorganize itself by forming new neural connections. This allows the brain to compensate for injury and adapt to new experiences.

2.3. Critical Periods

These are specific windows of time during which certain developmental processes must occur. If they do not, the individual may experience long-term consequences.

3. Stages of Development

Development is often viewed as a series of stages, each with its own characteristics and challenges.

3.1. Infancy

The first year of life is a period of rapid growth and learning. Key milestones include crawling, walking, and the development of language.

3.2. Early Childhood

From ages 2 to 5, children experience significant cognitive and emotional growth. They learn to play independently, develop social skills, and begin to understand the world around them.

3.3. Middle Childhood

Between ages 6 and 11, children's cognitive abilities continue to expand. They develop a sense of self and begin to understand the complexities of social interactions.

3.4. Adolescence

Adolescence is a period of transition from childhood to adulthood. It is characterized by physical changes, emotional volatility, and the development of abstract thinking.

3.5. Adulthood

Adulthood is a period of continued growth and learning. It includes the stages of young adulthood, middle age, and old age, each with its own unique challenges and opportunities.

4. Research Methods

Developmental psychologists use a variety of methods to study human development, including experiments, observations, and interviews.

4.1. Experiments

Experiments involve manipulating one or more variables to observe their effects on behavior. They are often used to study cognitive and emotional development.

4.2. Observations

Observations involve watching and recording behavior in natural settings. This method is useful for studying social interactions and the development of language.

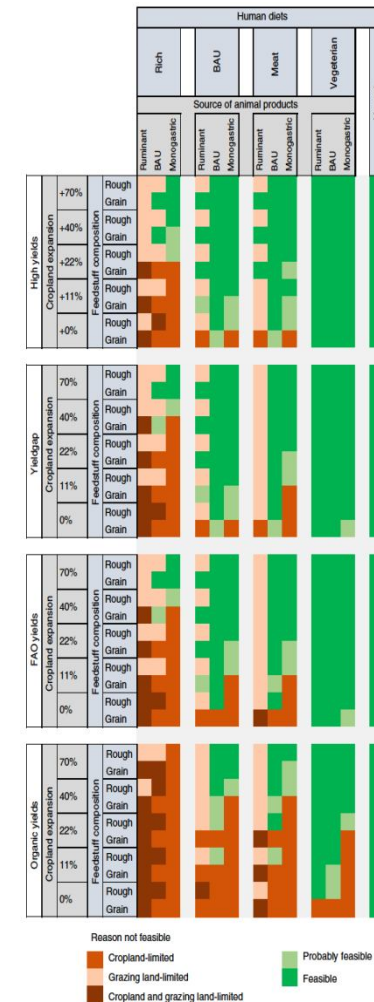
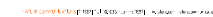
4.3. Interviews

Interviews involve talking to individuals about their experiences and thoughts. They are often used to study subjective experiences and the development of self-concept.

5. Conclusion

Developmental psychology is a fascinating field that helps us understand the human mind and body. By studying the processes of development, we can gain insights into the challenges and opportunities of each stage of life.

Feeding the planet doesn't require further deforestation



- 500 scenarios for food production to 2050 for 9 billion people
- 289 scenarios don't require deforestation
- Dietary choice is critical
- Low meat, vegetarian or vegan diets give highest likelihood of success

Karl Heinz Erb et al, Nature Communications (2016). Global Land Project



What Future Earth provides

Connecting and facilitating research communities and information/knowledge sharing to accelerate transformation to sustainability

- Understanding complicated environmental factors
 - by interdisciplinary and multi-academic collaboration, especially with social sciences
- Promoting research with stakeholders (private sectors, citizens, politicians, educators, etc)
 - by understanding their recognitions/ interest/ desire/ wisdom
- Encouraging transformation of the society and leading to actions to address global challenges
- Global network

Future Earth in numbers



50,000+

Our networks reach 50,000 global sustainability researchers and people interested in this research



>20

National networks established, and many more in progress



8

Knowledge-Action Networks



>20

Global research projects

- Global Hub
- Regional centre
- Regional office
- Project office
- Project
- Country with national committee or national network

5

Global Hubs



7

Regional centres and offices

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