

Personality Development

Unit 4: Socialization

Personality Development

Personality – the behaviors, attitudes, beliefs, and values that are characteristic of an individual.

- Determines how we adjust/react to our environment
- Personality develops throughout a person's lifetime

What determines personality?

Nature

- **Heredity** – the transmission of genetic characteristics from parents to children
- **Instinct** – unchanging, biologically inherited behavior pattern
- **Sociobiology** – the biological basis of social behavior.
 - Sociobiologists argue that traits such as religion, cooperation, and competition are rooted in the genetic code of humans.

What determines personality?

Nurture

- Social Environment and Learning
 - Adapting and reacting to the environment

Socialization

The interactive process through which people learn the basic skills, values, beliefs, and behavior patterns of a society



Factors in Personality Development

Most social scientists assumes that personality and social behavior result from a blend of genetics and the environment.

They believe that environmental factors have the greatest influence

Principal Factors:

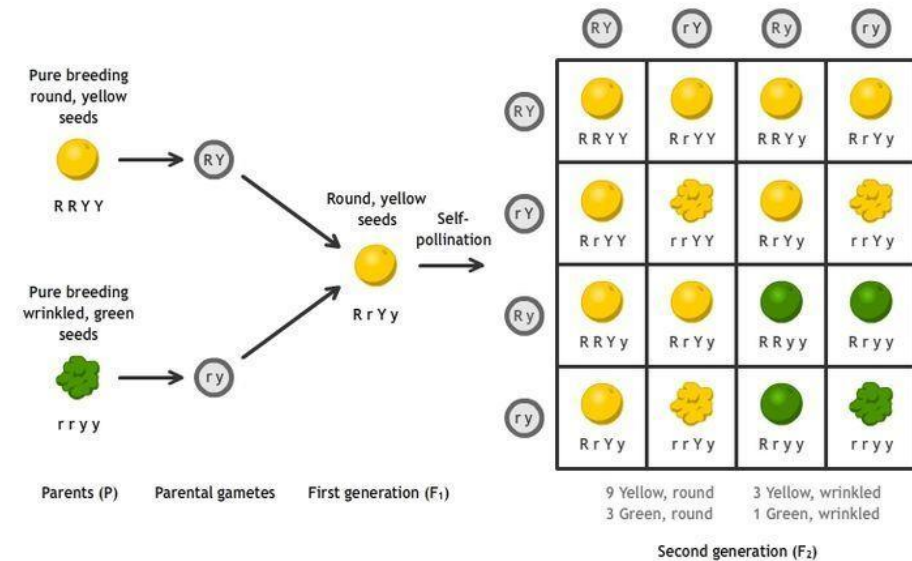
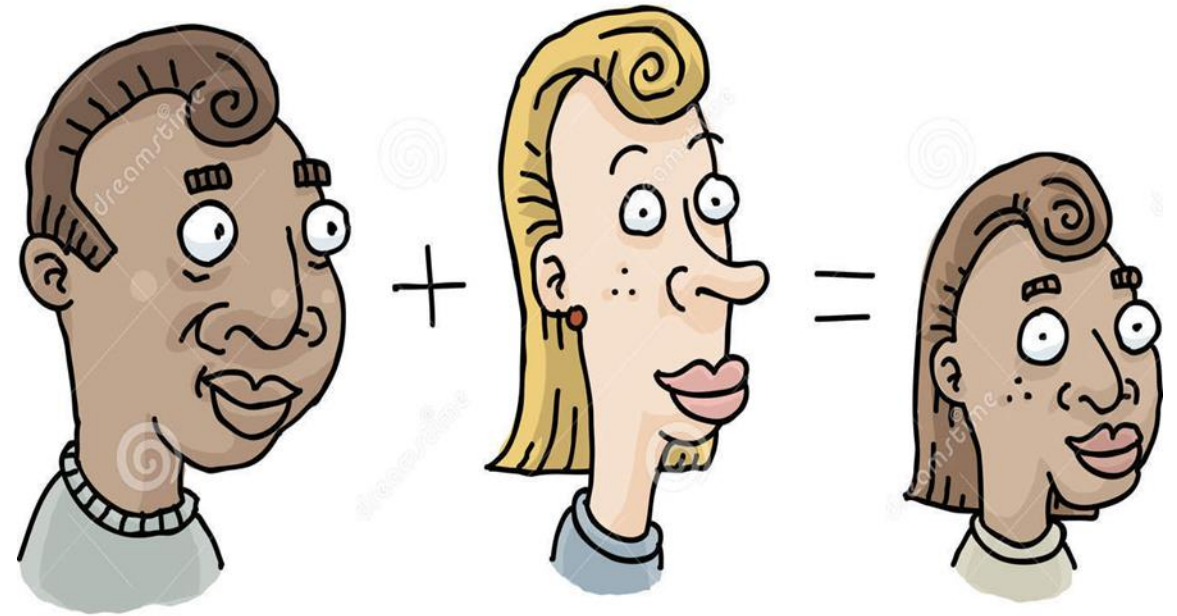
- Heredity
- Birth Order
- Parents
- The Cultural Environment

Heredity

Characteristics that are present at birth

- Body build, hair type, eye color, skin pigmentation, aptitudes, etc.

Aptitude - capacity to learn a particular skill or acquire a specific body of knowledge



Heredity

- Aptitudes develop due to environmental factors.
- Parents' responses can encourage or discourage development
- Parental reinforcement may affect how traits such as shyness, sociability, and aggression develop



Heredity

- We inherit certain basic needs like the hunger drive
- Makes us want to eat, but doesn't determine when, how, or what we eat.
- Heredity provides biological needs, culture determines how to meet them





Birth Order

- Personality is influenced whether we have brothers, sisters, both, or neither
- The order in which we are born influences our personality



FIRST BORN

perfectionist
achiever
leader
bossy
responsible
motivated
conscientious
controlling
cautious
reliable



MIDDLE BORN

adaptable
independent
go-between
people-pleaser
can be rebellious
feels left out
peacemaker
social



LAST BORN

social
charming
outgoing
uncomplicated
manipulative
seeks attention
self-centered
fun



THE ONLY CHILD

confident
conscientious
responsible
perfectionist
center of attention
mature for their age
seek approval
sensitive
leader

Parental Characteristics

- Personality development in children is influenced by the characteristics of their parents
- Factors include: Age, level of education, religious orientation, economic status, cultural heritage, and occupation



Cultural Environment

- Each culture gives rise to a series of personality traits

For example:

- in the United States competitiveness, assertiveness, and individualism are common personality traits.
- A common personality trait in Australia is tall poppy syndrome where individuals do not want to stand out or be seen as special/superior.



Feral Children

Feral Children are raised without the influence of a social environment

- Few human characteristics other than appearance
- No reasoning ability
- No social skills
- No ability to control their bodily functions

Sociological studies of feral children suggest that our personality comes from our social environment