

Adolescence Psychosocial Perspectives

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Adolescent Psychosocial Development and Evaluation: Global Perspectives

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1. Introduction

Adolescence is a product of the modern world. It has developed into a distinct stage of life as a result of a shift in many societies requiring a highly trained work force. When this is not needed, young people usually acquire skills needed to work as they grow up. As they go through puberty, they acquire additional responsibilities, usually with the oversight of parents or in apprenticeship to others outside of the family. Young women usually marry close to the time of the onset of fertility. However, with increasing education needs, there is an increasing gap between physical maturation and the ability to take on adult responsibilities. Young people who join the workforce early can be at a disadvantage compared to those who can complete more education. Young women have increasing control over their fertility in these societies, which also gives them these extra years to become more educated.

These factors lead to a cohort of young people who have adult bodies without having adult responsibilities. They have the luxury of time to contemplate, to take risks, and to define themselves in new ways. All of this has led to the phenomenon of adolescence, which encompasses and goes beyond the physical changes of puberty.

This is not to say that adolescent development has not previously existed; it is rather that societies' awareness of this developmental stage of life has only recently emerged or been modified because of the societal changes that have occurred and the effects of globalization.

As a definable period of adolescence is created in a society, it is accompanied by new societal issues—children separating emotionally from their parents while still being reliant

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