

Introduction to Psychology

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

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2. Mr. Kaufman fears that his wife's interactions with their baby may eventually lead the child to have various adverse consequences. They may include crying easily when frustrated, fearful clinging to his mother, becoming unfriendly toward other people, and becoming withdrawn and uninterested in his surroundings. This paper refutes some of Mr. Kaufman's beliefs and supports some of them.

Firstly, Mr. Kaufman is not mistaken thinking that the incessant interaction of the mother with her baby might lead to the fact that the baby would cry easily when frustrated. If the mother reacts instantly to the crying of her baby every time it happens and hurries to hold the child and fulfill all his wishes, such child might not learn how to cope with frustration. It will result in the inability to deal with the stress in the adult life. It is important to allow babies to learn how to self-soothe themselves. However, according to Hamer (2012), leaving a crying baby without an attention at all is also extremely harmful to his mental health. If a child is not just crying to attract the parents' attention but has some problems or faces some vital needs, including the need of love and interaction with his mother, and she does not come, it may lead to the inferiority complex of a child. The baby might decide that if a mother does not come, it is his fault, not his mother's one. Such child will feel undesirable and unworthy, which will have a lasting effect on all his life.

Secondly, Mr. Kaufman's beliefs that a child will fearfully cling to his mother and become unfriendly to other people if his mother spends too much time with a baby are far from reality. In fact, the opposite is correct. Various research, for example, the study carried by Cathy Hamer (2012), prove that the more time a baby spends communicating with his mother and other caregivers, the more open and sociable he becomes. "It is becoming increasingly clear that the more babies experience shared talk and activity, the more effective they become as communicators" (Hamer, 2012, p. 17). A child, who received enough care,

attention, and love from his parents, will also treat all other people with love and not with fear and suspicion.

Finally, one more Mr. Kaufsman's fear that a baby will become withdrawn and less interested in his surroundings is not correct. According to Hamer (2012), the cognitive development of children also depends on their interaction with their caregivers and the amount of attention babies receive from them.

Summing up, Mr. Kaufman's beliefs are mostly groundless. "The lack of personalized care during the early years of life has a devastating effect on the child's health, growth, personality adjustment and cognitive capacity" (World Health Organization, 2004, p. 1). In other words, by depriving the baby of her love and attention, Mrs. Kaufman could do more harm to his psychological health.

3. Biological and cultural explanations of various gender differences do not have to contradict because only the combination of these factors shapes the gender identity of a person. Very often, it is difficult to distinguish the borders between nature and nurture in a child becoming a representative of a gender.

The importance of biology in forming such traces as aggressiveness and social connectedness is beyond doubt. Although men and women are similar in numerous biological aspects, there are important differences, such as hormones, a set of chromosomes, as well as primary and secondary sex characteristics. Hormones are one of the most influential factors that form a person's gender identity because they affect not only the physical gender differences but also psychological. The main male hormone is testosterone, which facilitates the appearance of secondary sex characteristics. If a woman has more testosterone than necessary, she has more muscles and is more aggressive. Consequently, one can conclude that testosterone makes men more physically strong and aggressive. In terms of psychology, these two aspects might be interconnected. In particular, males are physically stronger and, as

a result, are more likely to defend themselves. Therefore, they are more individualistic, aggressive, and competitive. On the contrary, females are less strong and thus feel the need of socialization and connectedness.

The case of David Reimer described by Myers (2007) might illustrate the importance of hormones. A little boy lost his penis in the early childhood and doctors advised his parents to nurture him as a girl named Brenda. Nevertheless, “Brenda” did not behave as other girls. Finally, he learned the truth about his gender from his parents, cut off his long hair, changed his name to David, and even married a woman and became a stepfather. This example illustrates the importance of nature in forming a gender identity.

However, nurture is also crucial in the formation of a person as a member of a certain gender group. The society establishes different gender roles for males and females. Usually, they are different in various countries but almost everywhere, gender roles are dependent upon diverse physical conditions of men and women. Children began to show their gender differences from childhood when boys and girls tend to play different games. Usually, boys are more likely to compete while girls like to make friends and communicate.

Gender differences should not be reduced because it might lead to depression since the gender identity is a part of a person’s personality. Moreover, very often even in families where parents discouraged children from acting as “normal” representatives of their gender, children still acted as “proper” boys or girls. It is important to remember such phenomenon as gender typing which means, according to Myers (2007), “the way some children seem more attuned than others to traditional male or female roles” (p. 170).

In conclusion, nature and nurture are equally important and interconnected in forming the gender identity of a person, although the influence of nature is often more powerful. Nevertheless, it makes no sense to celebrate or reduce gender differences because they are an essential part of a human personality.

References

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