

The Development of Close Relationships

Relationship Development & Family Values (General Perspective)

The Development of Close Relationships

Understanding how relationships grow, develop, and are influenced by family, values, respect, and society.

Learning Goals & Success Criteria

Learning Goals

Today we will learn:

- how different theories explain close relationships
- how values, family, and society influence relationships

Success Criteria

I can:

- ✓ explain relationships using different theories
 - ✓ compare strengths and weaknesses of theories
 - ✓ understand how respect, responsibility, and communication affect healthy relationships after completing the assessment
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Key Vocabulary

Term	Meaning
Close Relationship	A strong emotional connection between people
Attraction	Feelings that bring people together
Commitment	Loyalty and responsibility in a relationship
Theory	An idea used to explain behaviour
Cooperation	Working together respectfully
Mutual Respect	Treating each other with kindness and fairness

What Influences Relationships?

Factors That Shape Relationships

- family values
- communication
- trust
- personality
- culture and traditions
- shared beliefs
- kindness and respect
- life experiences

Think–Pair–Share

What qualities are important in a healthy relationship?

Psychodynamic Theory

Psychodynamic theory explains that childhood experiences and early family relationships affect how people behave in relationships later in life. If a person grows up in a caring and supportive environment, they may find it easier to trust others and build healthy relationships. Negative experiences during childhood may also affect communication, emotions, and trust as an adult.

Evolutionary Theory

Evolutionary theory explains that people are naturally attracted to partners who seem caring, supportive, healthy, and responsible. This theory believes people often look for relationships that provide safety, stability, and long-term support. Attraction may also be connected to qualities that help families and relationships succeed.

Structural Functionalism

Structural functionalism explains that relationships and families help society stay organized and stable. Family members work together by sharing responsibilities, supporting each other, and caring for children. When people cooperate and fulfill their roles, families and society function more smoothly.

Conflict Theory

Conflict theory explains that relationships may experience problems when there is unfairness, stress, or unequal power between people. Disagreements can happen because of money, responsibilities, decision-making, or control. This theory focuses on how fairness and equality affect relationships.

Equality & Respect Perspective

This perspective explains that healthy relationships should include fairness, mutual respect, communication, and shared responsibilities. Both people should support each other emotionally and work together in a caring and respectful way. Strong relationships are built on cooperation, kindness, and understanding.

Diversity & Inclusion Perspective

This perspective explains that relationships and families can look different across cultures, traditions, and communities. People may have different beliefs, family structures, and relationship styles. Respecting diversity helps people better understand and accept others.

Filter Theory

Filter theory explains that people often choose partners who share similar values, interests, goals, and lifestyles. People may feel more comfortable with others who think similarly or have common beliefs and experiences. These shared qualities help relationships grow stronger over time.

Social Homogamy Theory

Social homogamy theory explains that people are often attracted to others with similar social backgrounds, such as culture, education, religion, or lifestyle. Similar experiences and values may help people connect more easily and understand each other better.

Complementary Needs Theory

Complementary needs theory explains that people may be attracted to partners whose personalities balance their own. For example, a quiet person may connect well with an outgoing

person, or an organized person may work well with a creative person. Different personality traits can sometimes support and complete each other in a relationship.

Theories of Attraction

Why Are People Attracted to Each Other?

Different theories explain attraction in different ways. Some theories say people are attracted because of shared values and similarities, while others believe people may choose partners whose personalities balance their own.

Evolutionary Theory

Evolutionary theory explains that people are often attracted to caring, responsible, and supportive partners. People may naturally look for relationships that provide safety, stability, and emotional support.

Filter Theory

Filter theory explains that people often choose partners who share similar values, interests, goals, education, or beliefs. Shared similarities can help people feel closer and understand each other better.

Example:

Someone may prefer a partner with similar hobbies, values, or lifestyle.

Social Homogamy Theory

Social homogamy theory explains that people are often attracted to others with similar social backgrounds, such as culture, education, religion, or community. Similar experiences may help people connect more easily.

Example:

Students may become friends or date people from similar schools or communities.

Complementary Needs Theory

Complementary needs theory explains that people may be attracted to partners whose personalities balance their own. Different personality traits can sometimes work well together.

Example:

- quiet + outgoing
- organized + creative

People may feel balanced when their strengths and personalities support each other.

Comparing Theories

Theory	Focus
Evolutionary	Stability and support
Filter Theory	Shared values and interests
Social Homogamy	Similar backgrounds
Complementary Needs	Balancing personalities

Summary

Research shows:

- ✓ similarities can help relationships
 - ✓ trust and communication are important
 - ✓ different types of relationships can still succeed
 - ✓ culture and family values affect attraction and relationships differently around the world
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Class Activity

Relationship Theory Case Study

Scenario

A couple shares responsibilities equally and supports each other's education and career goals.

Task

Explain this relationship using:

- Structural Functionalism
 - Conflict Theory
 - Equality Perspective
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Summary Notes

Structural Functionalism

Relationships help families stay stable.

Conflict Theory

Relationships may involve disagreements about fairness and power.

Equality Perspective

Healthy relationships include fairness and respect.

Evolutionary Theory

People seek caring and supportive partners.

Filter Theory

People choose partners with shared values.

Social Homogamy

People are attracted to similar backgrounds.

Complementary Needs

Different personalities may balance each other.