Chapter 15 - Psychological Disorders

Psychological Disorder- a condition in which behavior is judged

- Atypical-not enough in itself
- Disturbing- varied with time and culture
- Maladaptive- harmful
- Unjustifiable- sometimes there's a good reason

Historical Perspective

- Perceived Causes- movements of sun or moon; evil spirits
- Ancient Treatments- exorcism, caged like animals, beaten, burned, castrated, mutilated, blood replaced with animals blood

Psychological Disorders

- Medical Model
  - Concept that diseases have physical causes
  - Can be diagnosed, treated, and in most cases, cured
  - Assumes that these "mental" illnesses can be diagnosed on the basis of their symptoms and cured through therapy in a psychiatric hospital
  - Bio-psycho-social Perspective- assumes that biological, sociocultural, and psychological factors combine and interact to produce psychological disorders

Etiology

- DSM-IV
  - American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
  - A widely used system for classifying psychological disorders
- Neurotic disorder
  - Usually distressing but that allows one to think rationally and function socially
  - Freud saw the neurotic disorders as ways of dealing with anxiety
- Psychotic disorder
  - Person loses contact with reality
  - Experiences irrational ideas and distorted perceptions

Anxiety Disorders

- Anxiety Disorders- distressing, persistent anxiety or maladaptive behaviors that reduce anxiety
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder- client is tense, apprehensive, and in a state of autonomic nervous system arousal
- Phobia- persistent, irrational fear of a specific object or situation
- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder- characterizes by unwanted repetitive thoughts (obsessions) and/or actions (compulsions)
- Panic Disorder- marked by a minutes-long episode of intense dread in which a person experiences terror and accompanying chest pain, choking, or other frightening sensation
Dissociative Disorders

- Dissociative Disorders: conscious awareness becomes separated (dissociated) from previous memories, thoughts, and feelings
- Dissociative Amnesia: selective memory loss often brought on by extreme stress
- Dissociative Fugue: flight from one's home and identity accompanies amnesia
- Dissociative Identity Disorder: rare dissociative disorder in which a person exhibits two or more distinct and alternating personalities; also known as multiple personality disorder

Mood Disorders

- Mood Disorders: characterized by emotional extremes
- Major Depressive Disorder: a mood disorder in which a person, for no apparent reason, experiences two or more weeks of depressed moods, feelings of worthlessness, and diminished interest or pleasure in most activities
- Mania: a mood disorder marked by a hyperactive, wildly optimistic state
- Bipolar Disorder: a mood disorder in which the person alternated between the hopelessness and lethargy of depression and the overexcited state of mania; formerly called manic-depressive disorder

Schizophrenia

- Schizophrenia: Literal translation "split mind"
- A group of severe psychotic disorders characterized by:
  - Disorganized and delusional thinking
  - Disturbed perceptions
  - Inappropriate emotions and actions
  - Delusions: false beliefs, often on persecution or grandeur, that may accompany psychotic disorders
  - Hallucinations: false sensory experiences such as seeing something without any external visual stimulus

Subtypes of Schizophrenia

- Paranoid: Preoccupation with delusions or hallucinations
- Disorganized: Disorganized speech or behavior, or flat or inappropriate emotion
- Catatonic: Immobility (or excessive, purposeless movement), extreme negativism, and/or parrotlike repeating of another's speech or movements
- Undifferentiated or residual: Schizophrenia symptoms without fitting one of the above types

Personality Disorders

- Personality Disorders
- Disorders characterized by inflexible and enduring behavior patterns that impair social functioning
- Usually without anxiety, depression, or delusions
- Antisocial Personality Disorder: disorder in which the person (usually male) exhibits a lack of conscience for wrongdoing, even toward friends and family members; may be aggressive and ruthless or a clever con artist

Bibliography


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