

Student's Presentation of Deprivation

- Deprivation and Separation
 - Bowlby's maternal deprivation hypothesis Grace Mark Holly Katie
 - Research into the effects of deprivation (Key Study) **Jak, David, Gareth Danny**
 - Research into separation **Joe Jessica Andy Rhian**
 - Evaluation of Bowlby's maternal deprivation hypothesis. Activity pg 61 **Christian, Emma Nicole Nommi**
- Privation
 - Longitudinal studies of children in institutional care **John, Dean, Paul**

AS Module 1

Cognitive & Developmental Psychology

Attachments in Development-

Deprivation and Privation

Lesson 5
Grace, Mark, Holly, Katie



Deprivation

- *Loss of contact with primary care giver*
- *Have had early care but then lost it*

Maternal Deprivation Hypothesis

- A hypothesis associated with the developmental work of the psychologist John Bowlby
- Proposed some 20 years before the publication of his attachment theory
- Significant loss of contact between child and primary caregiver would have negative consequences for the child's later development
- Child would be at risk of behavioural disorders and difficulties with relationships



– Identified the need for more than just a good standard of physical care in order for the healthy development of a child.

- In the 1940's it was believed that emotions would take care of themselves.
- Showed the importance of emotional care in emotional development.
- “Mother-love in infancy and childhood is as important for mental health as are vitamins and proteins for physical health” (Bowlby 1953, p.240)



Bowlby's Maternal Deprivation Hypothesis

- Main focus of hypothesis is on the relationship between the child and maternal influence
- This relationship **MUST** be continuous for the child to develop psychologically well.
- Bowlby believed that if the maternal figure left the child for a substantial amount of time e.g. several days, the relationship would become discontinuous
- If the relationship is discontinuous it is likely that relationship between the maternal figure and the infant will become unstable.
- This can be explained using Bowlby's 1951 research:



Discontinuous Relationships



- In 1951 Bowlby proposed that separation from the mother would cause separation distress.
- If the relationship is disrupted then the child comes to distrust the mother and will not form an attachment
- This was characterised by the following stages:
- Protest → despair → detachment
- Protest at the mother leaving, despair when the mother does not return and an ultimate attachment failure with the mother.
- In 1969, he proposed that the primary attachment provided the child with the IWM, thus if the child does not create an attachment its IWM will be impaired leading to the anti-social behaviour and psychological distress shown in those suffering maternal deprivation.

Bowlby's research

- Bowlby studied 44 juvenile delinquents. He found 17 had a discontinuous relationship with their maternal figure.
- Due to this disruption, an attachment to the maternal figure had not been made. This, he argued, had affected their development psychologically.
- For example, he believed it had led to the failure to develop a social conscience in two of them.
- This theory can be found in Bowlby's 1953 book, 'Childcare and the growth of love.'



BOWLBY'S SUGGESTION (1953)

- He suggested that in order for the continuous relationship to develop it must occur within a CRITICAL PERIOD.



- A time which significant development can take place.
- The attachment must take place within 2 ½ years.
- E.g development of embryo (see page 55)

**EFFECTS OF SEPARATION
DURING CRITICAL PERIOD**

- It is thought that a child who experiences continuous separation is more likely to become EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED.



- This is likely to cause issues in future relationships e.g trust, confidence and stability.

COPING WITH SEPARATION



- After the age of five, children are able to cope better.
- They are now able to communicate more effectively. E.g asking when guardian will return.
- They become aware of a routine. E.g guardian going to work.

THE 'MATERNAL' RELATIONSHIP ?

- People are often misled in thinking a 'maternal' relationship is **only** between a mother and child.



- However, BOWLBY said a 'maternal' relationship is with whoever is acting as 'mother'.

- **IMPORTANCE OF A PRIMARY CAREGIVER**
- Monotropy = 1 attachment
- Bowlby said that in order for healthy emotional development a relationship with a PRIMARY caregiver had to be formed.
- In most cases this is the mother but, it doesn't necessarily have to be.



Research in to the effects of Deprivation

Gareth

A number of studies conducted in the 1930's & 40's strongly influenced Bowlby's views and led to the development of his maternal deprivation hypothesis.

- E.g SPITZ & WOLF (1946) studied 100 normal children.
- Children became depressed when staying in hospital.
- General rate of recovery was good if separation lasted less than 3 months.
- Longer separations were rarely associated with complete recovery.

(Time isn't a great healer!)

Time (short) = good/complete recovery

Time (long) = less successful recovery

What is Deprivation?

To have something taken away, such as food or warmth. (A loss)
In the context of attachments, deprivation refers to the loss of emotional care that results in the breaking of emotional bonds.

•A child is denied emotional care for a period of time.

Bowlby's maternal hypothesis proposes that emotional deprivation disrupts the attachment process. This may harm the social & emotional development of the child.

Bowlby's Key Study

- To test the maternal deprivation hypothesis
- Whether frequent early separations were associated with a risk of behavioural disorders. Especially 'affectionless psychopathy'.
- 'Affectionless psychopathy' = individuals who have no sense of shame or guilt, lack social conscience
- Such individuals could have had a disrupted early childhood! This may lead to crime!

Aim

Bowlby's Key Study

- Study of 88 children ranging in age from 5 to 16yrs
- Set in child guidance clinic
- 44 referred due to stealing, 16 of these were affectionless psychopaths
- The other 44 were emotionally maladjusted (hadn't committed crimes/antisocial behaviour), were not affectionless psychopaths.

Procedures

Bowlby's Key Study

- 86 % of the affectionless psychopaths had experienced early and prolonged separations with their mothers.
- 17 % of the non- affectionless psychopaths had experienced such separations.
- 4 % of the control group had experienced frequent early separations.

Findings

Bowlby's Key Study

- Early separation = social & emotional maladjustment later on
- Most severe form = affectionless psychopathy
- Less severe form = antisocial behaviour
- This study supports Bowlby's maternal deprivation hypothesis

Conclusions

Bowlby's Key Study

- Deprivation/separation & affectionless psychopathy are linked, one doesn't cause the other
- Separation data may not be reliable
- Parents may not have recalled separations during infancy accurately
- How do we know whether these children experienced deprivation? (the loss of emotional care)
- Or whether they had good substitute emotional care during these separations?

Criticisms

G-Man's observations

- This is a section of study on the development stage.
- The emphasis is on progression!
- My feeling is that deprivation is a developed form of separation anxiety, when associated with attachments
- The time period is greater than that of the Strange Situation
- The needs of the child are more developed as age is increased.
- This period can distinguish between future secure & insecure attachments with the primary caregiver.

GAP

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A/S module 1

- Privation – Deprivation

- Longitudinal studies of children in institutional care.



Longitudinal Studies of Children in Institutional Care

- One early study showed that children living in orphanages improved intellectually when given more attention
- This was conducted by Skeels & Dye in 1939

Longitudinal Studies of Children in Institutional Care

- Barbara Tizard and Co. conducted a bigger investigation over a period over 16 years
- This is described in the key study on page 63

- There was a recent study of this in Romania; Rutter *et al* (and others) found that many children that were placed into orphanages from birth experienced considerable deprivation.
- The study looked at 111 orphans, these orphans were adopted before the age of 2, but they were physically undersized. By the age of 4 they had caught up to age related milestones.

- The later the children were adopted the slower their progress.
- This leads us to believe that the longer children experience emotional deprivation the longer it would take to recover; (but the recovery is possible)

- An earlier study by Quinton et al 1985 found the opposite
- The researchers followed women who were raised in institutes and women who weren't
- The women who were raised in care had extreme difficulties when they became parents, I.e. these women were less caring toward there children due to their up-bringing.

- It may not necessarily be that early privation that explains the lack of parenting abilities.
- It may simply be that they had bad role models for how parents should be.
- This made them less able to cope as mothers.

- This is supported by further information by Quinton and Co., who found that the institutionalized women who had good school experiences in childhood and better circumstances in adulthood functioned just as well as the comparison group
- This suggests that poor experiences are associated with poor recovery. A recovery is possible when a child has improved care during childhood.

Thank you for listening to our presentation. We would appreciate a few hugs or kisses maybe; if not a round of applause will do.


