



5

ANALYSING EXPERIENCES & OPINIONS - WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE NEED?

OBJECTIVE:

To use the discussions on people's experiences and opinions to make an informed assessment of the needs of young people.

i) Play about young people's needs

PREPARATION:

You will need to prepare a briefing for the group about your expectations of the play, including:

- It should have dialogue that reflects on their perceptions of the needs of young people;
- It should have a single plot that highlights a dilemma or conflict that they believe young people experience;
- The group will be expected to act out the play and answer questions later; and
- Their acting and writing abilities will not be judged - it is their analysis of the needs of young people, inherent in the play, that will be examined.

TIMING:

The exercise requires 2-4 hours depending on the circumstances and the depth of discussion you require from the group.

WHAT TO DO:

Arrange the large group into small groups of 6-8 people. Inform them that you are going to ask them to write and perform a play that highlights their analysis of the needs of young people.

Provide the briefing, as indicated above, and establish the time boundaries.

“Encourage each group to compare and contrast their own ideas with those you have presented”

When the play(s) have been written and performed encourage a discussion on the perceptions of young people's needs that have been highlighted, where those perceptions come from and debate any conflicts and disagreements.

ii) Young People's Needs - The Top Ten Listing!

PREPARATION:

You will need newsprint and pens.

TIMING:

The exercise will take about 30 minutes.

WHAT TO DO:

Divide people into groups of 4-5.

Ask them to reflect back on the discussions they have had about experiences and values and use these to help them come up with a list of 10 things which young people need. Give them 10 minutes to do this.

Bring the groups back together and put each of the lists up on the wall. Compare and contrast them.

Give out one or more of the handouts on young people's needs or do a short input or lecture. You may want to cover all the points made in the handouts or you could choose one which you think is most relevant to your society.

Encourage each group to compare and contrast their own ideas with those you have presented.

iii) Agreeing Young People's Needs

PREPARATION:

You will need some index cards, some small pieces of paper and some large sheets of newsprint.

Also, handouts or a prepared input on young people's needs.

TIMING:

The exercise will take 45 minutes approx.

WHAT TO DO:

Give each person 4 cards or 4 pieces of paper and ask them to write down 4 needs young people have, one on each card or piece of paper.

Ask people to get into pairs and give them 5 minutes to discuss what they have written and agree on 6 needs. This will mean eliminating two, changing the wording of some, etc.

Then ask each pair to join with another pair and agree on 8 needs. Again, this will mean negotiating. The final lists should be written on newsprint.

Bring the group back together and put each list on the wall. Compare and contrast them.

Give out one or more of the handouts on young people's needs or do a short input or lecture. You may want to cover all the points made in the handouts or you could choose one which you think is most relevant to your society. Encourage the group to compare and contrast their own ideas with those you have presented.

A YOUNG PERSON'S LOT...

TEN DEVELOPMENTAL TASKS

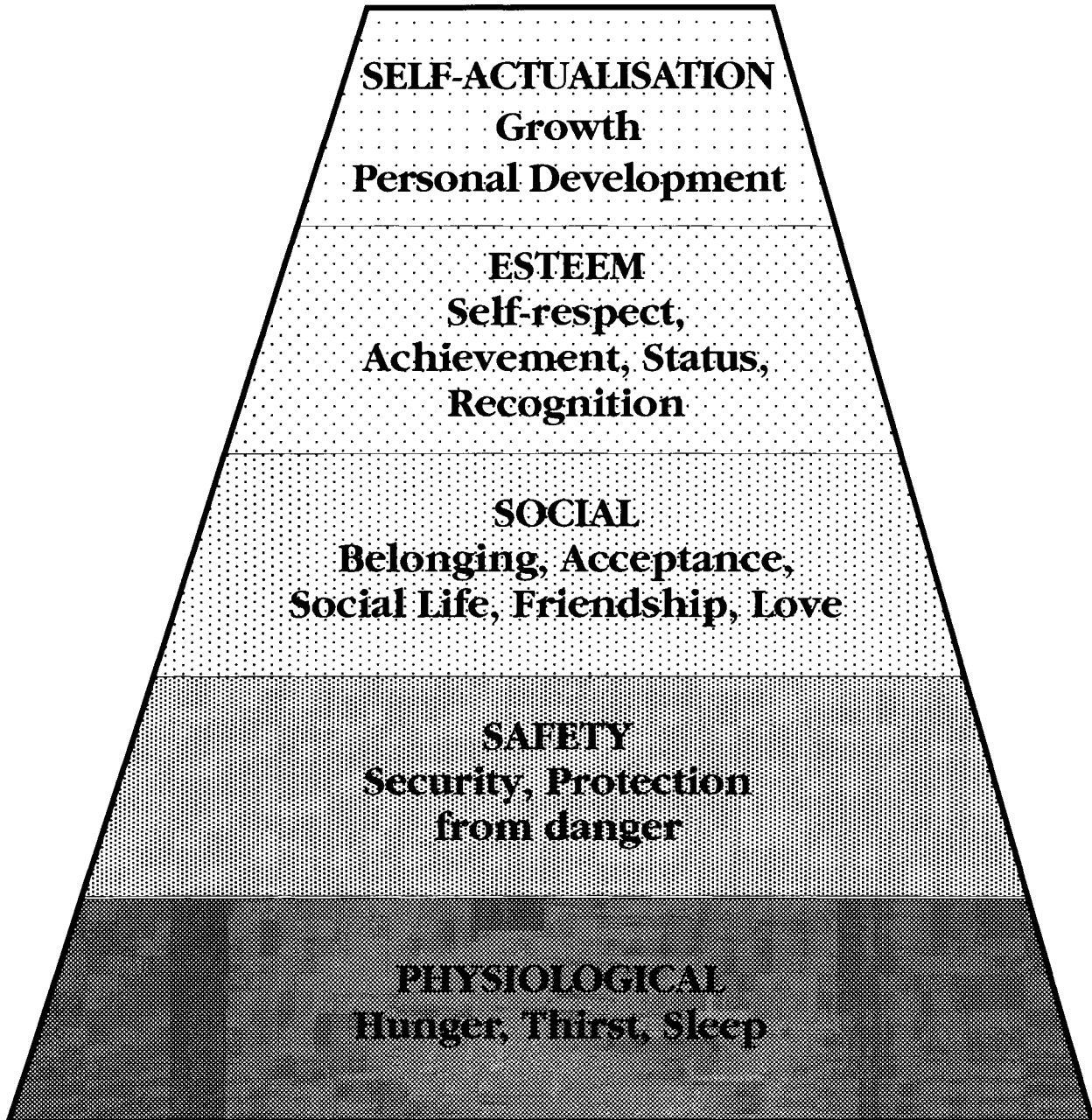
In developing as a person, young people are sorting out their feelings and beliefs, making sense out of confusion.

These ten developmental tasks form the agenda for young people.

- 1 DEVELOPING COMPETENCE
"What do I do well?" Knowing myself and my strengths and weaknesses. Setting realistic goals for myself and managing my life.
- 2 DEVELOPING AUTONOMY
"Can I sort things out on my own?" Initiating, planning and solving problems on my own. Fitting in my own needs with those of others.
- 3 DEVELOPING VALUES
"What do I believe in?" My values, ideals and dreams. Standing up for what I believe in, becoming more informed, looking for and checking out choices and opinions.
- 4 IDENTITY
"Who am I?" What sort of person am I, what do I look like, what do other people think of me? What could I be like? How can I change?
- 5 SEXUALITY AND ME
"Who am I as a sexual person?" My sexual identity and values. How can I express myself sexually. Relationships, contraception, sexual abuse, homosexuality/lesbianism, sex role stereotypes.
- 6 DEVELOPING FRIENDSHIPS
"How do I get on with my friends?" What does friendship mean? Being on my own, being lonely.
- 7 LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS
"Should I commit myself to someone else?" Being responsible, being possessive, knowing myself and what I want, dealing with conflicts and disagreements, making choices.
- 8 WORK AND NON-WORK
'Give us a job' What do I want, what can I get? What can I do? Pressures from family, schooling, friends.
- 9 BEING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY
'How do I fit in?' Participating or not participating, contributing, leading, destroying, protesting.
- 10 FREE TIME AND LEISURE
'It's boring around here!' What do I want to do with my free time? What's available and how can I make use of it?

Source unknown

HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



If one of our stronger (base) needs is threatened we jump to protect it.

For Example: You do not worry about status if you are starving.

A.H. Maslow: Motivation and Personality, Harper and Row, New York.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

Young people have all sorts of needs that have to be provided for:

For example - Food, Warmth, Protection from harm, Privacy, Clothing, Love and Security

THE NEED FOR RESPONSIBILITY

If we wish young people to grow into responsible adults, then we must encourage them to take responsibility for themselves and others, and trust them to do it.

THE NEED FOR NEW EXPERIENCES

Young people need to have opportunities to explore and learn about the world around them, to try new experiences and challenge attitudes.

THE NEED FOR PRAISE AND RECOGNITION

Young people are rehearsing for maturity, trying on different roles for size. They have a tremendous amount of learning to do, and need incentives to encourage them to enjoy their successes and learn from their mistakes.

THE NEED FOR CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Young people need to have many opportunities to express their opinions, beliefs, feelings and thoughts; and plenty of time to share ideas with other people in an atmosphere of tolerance and respect.

Adapted from: 'It Ain't What You Do', Published by: Youth Clubs, UK.