Urie Bronfenbrenner’s Bioecological Approach

Applied to My Life at Ten Years Old

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Abstract

At the age of 10 years old, I lived in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania with my mom, dad, and brother. I was involved in many different sport teams, including soccer and basketball. I was a member of my church youth group. I was in the sixth grade at Mechanicsburg Middle School. Urie Bronfenbrenner’s bioecological approach discusses how all of these characteristics about me turned me into the person I am today. Bronfenbrenner’s approach states that everyone and everything around me when I was 10 and younger had some specific impact on my childhood development.

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Urie Bronfenbrenner proposed a perspective known as the bioecological approach. This approach suggests that five levels of the environment simultaneously influence individuals. Bronfenbrenner believed that one could not fully understand the development of an individual without considering each of these levels. The five levels are microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, macrosystem and chronosystem. Using Bronfenbrenner’s perspective, I can use these five levels to see how they impacted and influenced my development.

When I was 10, my microsystem contained many individuals close to me. It included my mom, dad, brother, grandparents, and my best friends at the time. I grew up in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. I lived in neighborhood called Canterbury, and I lived right down the street from a park called Fisher Park. I was in middle school when I was 10 so I had a variety of different teachers but my homeroom teacher was Mrs. Lupia. My friends consisted of a group of 10 girls but my best friends were three girls named Sami, Erin and Meredith. My friends and I loved watching Disney Channel and our favorite movie was Cheetah Girls. In my community, I joined the junior high youth group at my church. I also played travel basketball and soccer.

My mesosytem consisted of my parents and how they were involved in mostly everything I did when I was 10. My mom and dad both helped out by providing snacks for my teams, and attended all of my tournaments for soccer and basketball. They were involved in my academics by attending parent-teacher conferences with all of my middle school teachers. My community also was involved in my sports teams. The middle school would recognize my travel team at pep rallies if we won tournaments or games over the weekend.

My parent’s jobs, vacations and larger parts of my community are a part of my exosystem. At the age of 10, my dad worked as a general manager for a company called Carlisle Syn Tech. My mom worked as an accounting administrator for R.S. Mowery and Sons. My family, including my grandparents, aunt, uncle and cousins, took a vacation to the Outer Banks in North Carolina. This is a vacation my family takes every year.

My religious affiliation at the age of 10 was Evangelism, which is a branch of Christianity. My family and I attended a church known as West Shore Evangelical Free Church. At the age of 10, I lived in an urban area. I lived in a neighborhood with around 50 houses in it, and I lived right down the street from a park. I grew up in the upper-middle class social class. My ethnic heritage includes German, Irish, French and Native American dissent. All of this information makes up my marcrosystem.

The final level in Bronfenbrenner’s bioecological approach is the chronosytem. This final level includes information about the world around me at the age of 10. In 2007, when I was 10, the president was George W. Bush. In the U.S. there was a major mortgage crisis. The final novel from Harry Potter was released in 2007. There was a shooting at Virginia Tech killing 33 people. The iPhone was released and was a hot commodity. These were all events that happened in the world when I was 10 years old.

According to Bronfenbrenner, all of these levels have impacted my development as a child. Without these levels and experiences, I would be a different person today.