

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PATNA UNIVERSITY, PATNA

Advance General Psychology, sem-1st

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PERSONALITY

Personality is an individual's unique and relatively stable patterns of behavior, thoughts, and emotions.

FREUD'S THEORY OF PERSONALITY

Freud defined personality in four central points i.e., levels of consciousness, the structure of personality, anxiety and defense mechanism, and psychosexual stages of development.

Psychosexual stages

- Oral Stage – The first stage is the oral stage. An infant is in this stage from birth to eighteen months of age. The main focus in the oral stage is pleasure seeking through the infant's mouth. During this stage, the need for tasting and sucking becomes prominent in producing pleasure. Oral stimulation is crucial during this stage; if the infant's needs are not met during this time frame he or she will be fixated in the oral stage. Fixation in this stage can lead to adult habits such as thumb-sucking, smoking, over-eating, and nail-biting. Personality traits can also develop during adulthood that are linked to oral fixation; these traits can include

optimism and independence or pessimism and hostility.

- [Anal Stage](#) – The second stage is the anal stage which lasts from eighteen months to three years of age. During this stage the infant's pleasure seeking centers are located in the bowels and bladder. Parents stress toilet training and bowel control during this time period. Fixation in the anal stage can lead to anal-retention or anal-expulsion. Anal retentive characteristics include being overly neat, precise, and orderly while being anal expulsive involves being disorganized, messy, and destructive.
- [Phallic Stage](#) – The third stage is the phallic stage. It begins at the age of three and continues until the age of six. Now sensitivity becomes concentrated in the genitals and masturbation (in both sexes) becomes a new source of pleasure. The child becomes aware of anatomical sex differences, which sets in motion the conflict jealousy and fear which Freud called the Oedipus complex (in boys). Later the Freud scholars added Electra complex (in girls).
- [Latency Stage](#) – The fourth stage is the latency stage which begins at the age of six and continues until the age of eleven. During this stage there is no pleasure seeking region of the body; instead all sexual feelings are repressed. Thus, children are able to develop social skills,

and find comfort through peer and family interaction.

- Genital Stage – The final stage of psychosexual development is the genital stage. This stage starts from eleven onwards, lasts through puberty, and ends when one reaches adulthood at the age of eighteen. The onset of puberty reflects a strong interest from one person to another of the opposite sex. If one does not experience fixation in any of the psychosexual stages, once he or she has reached the genital stage, he or she will grow into a well-balanced human being.