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ASSESSMENT 1

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

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Introduction

This report studies a case of a family facing difficulty. This kind of family includes families where the parents are exposed to substance misuse or abuse, poverty ,experiencing domestic abuse/violence, unemployment, exposed to neglect and abuse, involved in criminal activities, social isolation etc. that will tell on children entire performances, well-being and lead to vulnerability.

According to Schweiger, G. (2019), the “child vulnerability” concept is regularly mentioned or explained in Children’s right as well as Children Developmental literatures and articles, but the saddening thing is that the concept has never been well defined or analyzed. However, Shilpa, K et. al (2015) define vulnerability as a condition or state of being poorly defended or weak.

Presentation Of Case Study

Case Study

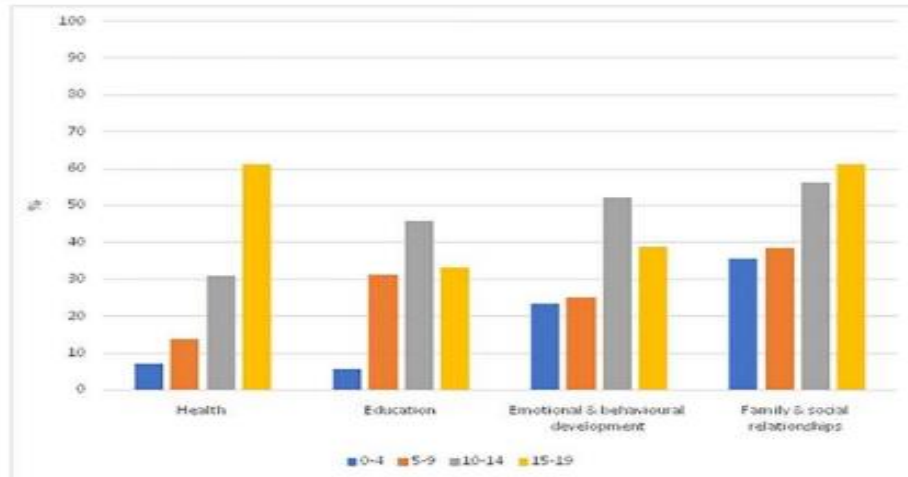
This case is about a nuclear family with two daughter (ages 10 and 9 respectively), a dad and mum. In the past three generations of the family, there has been exposure to drug addiction/dependence and domestic violence. The father figure in this case study was addicted to a daily use of cannabis, has had twenty-three(23) convictions and prison sentences. Both mum and dad here had mental issues, were poor and in debt and at the point of this study, their home was about to be taken.

The children were not exempted as they were sexually abused by extended family members, were on Social Service Registers, and one of them with poor medical and academic characters as well as mental illness.

The Risk Factors Of Vulnerability

The risk factors of vulnerability in this case study substance misuse, parents mental health problems, domestic violence, poverty, father’s criminal involvements. For the children the risk factor was exposure to sexual abuse and mental illness.

This family is way distinct from other average families as risk factors from their parents makes the children exposed to harm, abuse, health and safety risk, and neglect (vulnerability) Daniel B, (2010)



Child & Family Social Work, Volume: 26, Issue: 1, Pages: 122-131, First published: 26 November 2020, DOI: (10.1111/cfs.12795)

Figure 1: at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cfs.12795)

Impact Of Risk Factors On Child/Children Wellbeing and Health

Child Act in 1989 carefully defined “a child in need” as a one whom if let without provision and availability of services would definitely have drastic impaired development and/or health. From this definition, it is confirmed that the two children in the above case study are in need as they are adversely affected by risk factors they are exposed to by virtue of being part of a family faced with adversity.

Parental Substance Abuse

One of the risk factors posed on the children in this report's cases study is parental substance abuse. According to NSPCC, (2019), this refers to parent's long term misuse of either drug, alcohol, or both. Parents subject to misuse of these substances can exhibit unpredictable, chaotic lifestyles, and may find it hard to deal with children needs. This exposes the child to risks.

The diagram below shows statistics of children affected in this case.

The prevalence of drug and alcohol harm for families



Figure 2: LGA / ADPH Public Health Conference 2018- Reducing the burden of alcohol harm.

The impact

According to Cleaver et al, (2014), the possibility of undermined parenting capacity, and damage to children's development and health by parent associated with substance misuse is inevitable. It is more harmful when it comes with other factors like mental health problems, and domestic violence/abuse. The first risks with parent with this issue is neglect- in the case study, the father neglected his family, as his attention is shifted to means of getting more cannabis. This neglect yielded a damaging effect on his daughters' physical development, emotions, education, and health, and exposes them to physical and sexual abuse. There is also research that confirms that parental drugs dependence increases the tendency to which the children become dependent too. Undoubtedly, the effect posed by this risk father can transcend from childhood to adulthood and would include weak immunity, obstructed decision-making skills, as well as reduced impulse control Shonkoff et al, (2014).

Domestic Violence/ Abuse.

From the case study, from three generations back, the family was dedicated to constant domestic violence/abuse. Domestic abuse is any form of violent, controlling, threatening, and/or bullying behavior between individuals in any form of relationship. This form of abuse definitely leaves a mark on children- NPSCC,(2021) established that being exposed to domestic abuse at an early age is equivalent to child abuse.

The impact

According to Virginia D et al (2015), where domestic violence exist, the children are most likely exposed to emotional and sexual abuse. The case study above manifests all these.

Young children in families as such will be traumatized and always anxious, they could show of features like bed wetting, insomnia, temper tantrums, and behave younger than they are. The older children have different reaction to the issue, for the males, they would tend to express themselves physically and will always show off a disobedient and aggressive nature, and might tilt to using crime and violence as the way to get things done, boys of older age in this kind of family might tend to alcohol or drugs abuse in order to relieve them of the memories. The girls on the other hand would only express themselves inwardly and they would become isolated from people, most likely have eating disorder, think low of themselves, be harmful to themselves by dwelling on alcohol or inflicting physical pains on their body, and they might just be overly depressed.

Sexual abuse

In this case study one of the risk factors of vulnerability is sexual abuse. NSPCC (2019) described CSA -child sexual abuse as a situation where a child is coax or mandated to partake in sexual activities. These activities may occur offline or online and may either be by contact or non-contact doings. The diagram below shows increase in this activity in the UK.

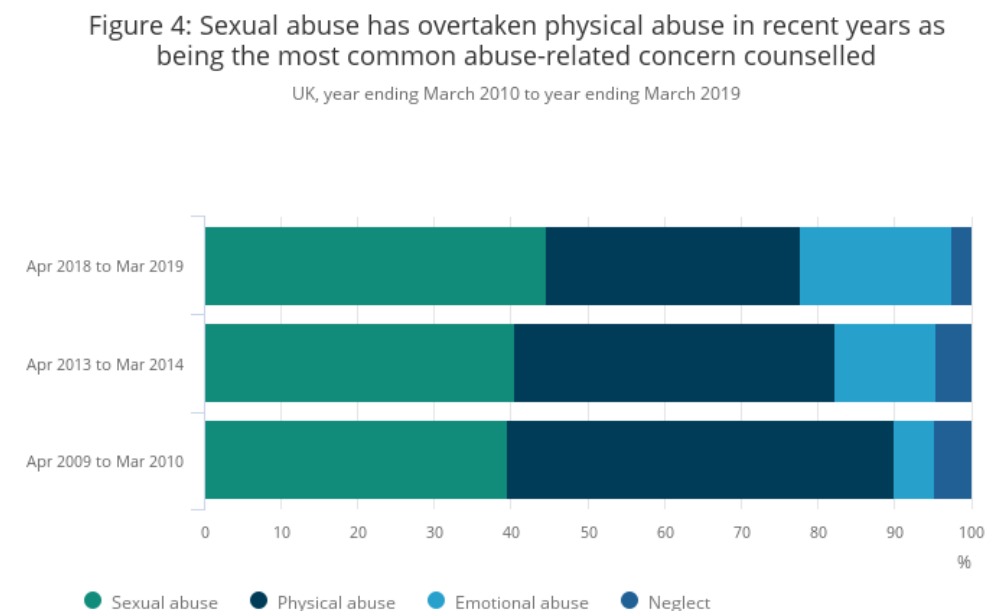


Figure 3: [number of child sexual abuse case uk - Bing images](#)

The impact

Exposure of children to sexual abuse would always have a lasting negative impact on the child and can get into their adult stages. The negative impact of this activities on children wellbeing includes exposure to mental health problems, challenging deeds including offending, sexualized behavior, substance misuse, relationship issues including issues with intimacy and constantly unstable relationships, and most times, sexual abuse leaves these children susceptible to future abuses of any kind. Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, (2017). Also, negative experiences damages such as occurs in sexual abuse destructively affects child brain development and distort the brain structure/architecture thereby leading to weaken cognitive development and elevated stress responses Shonkoff et al, (2014).

Parents/carers involved within the criminal justice system

Over the years, there has been significant increase in imprisonment incidences due to the escalation in crime rates. In the United Kingdom, over three hundred and twelve thousand (312,000) children have parents in prison by the action and sentence of the Criminal Justice System.

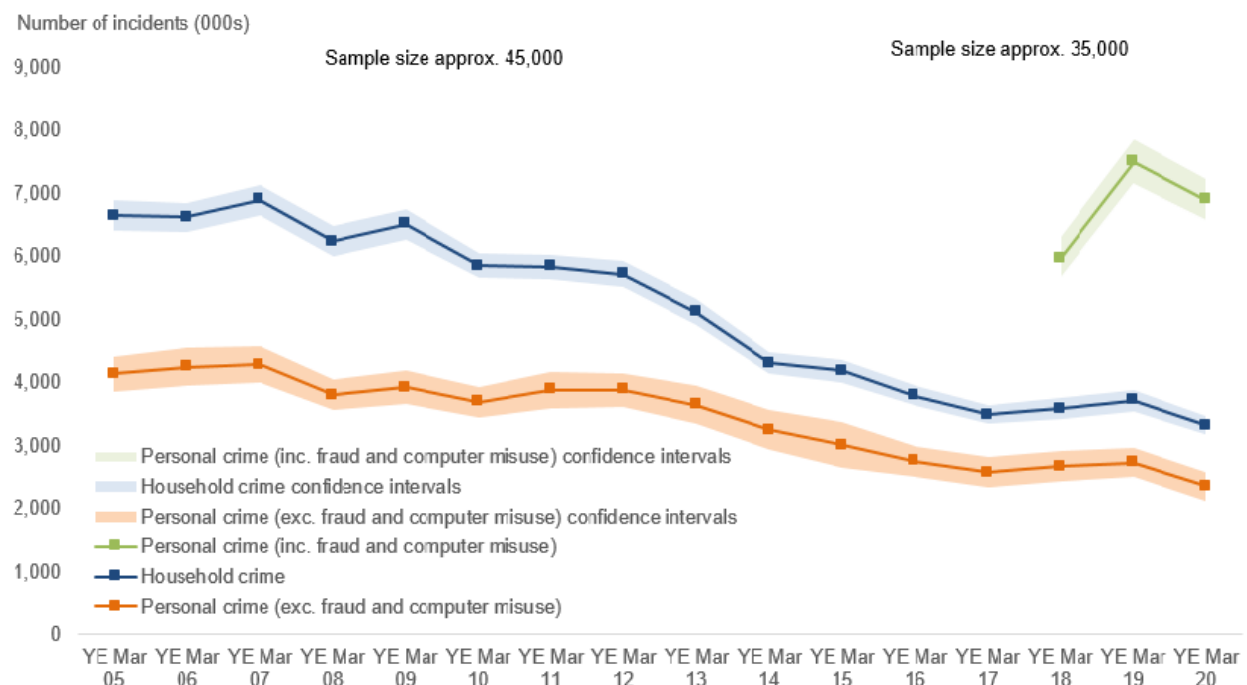


Figure 3: [Guide to crime statistics for England: March 2020 - National Statistics office](#)

The family in this report had a dad who had frequented prison and this is sure to post a threat on his two daughters .

The impact

Figure 4 below shows the comparison between children of prisoners and those whose parents are not.

Figure 2. Parental incarceration is associated with numerous other adverse childhood experiences, 2011-12

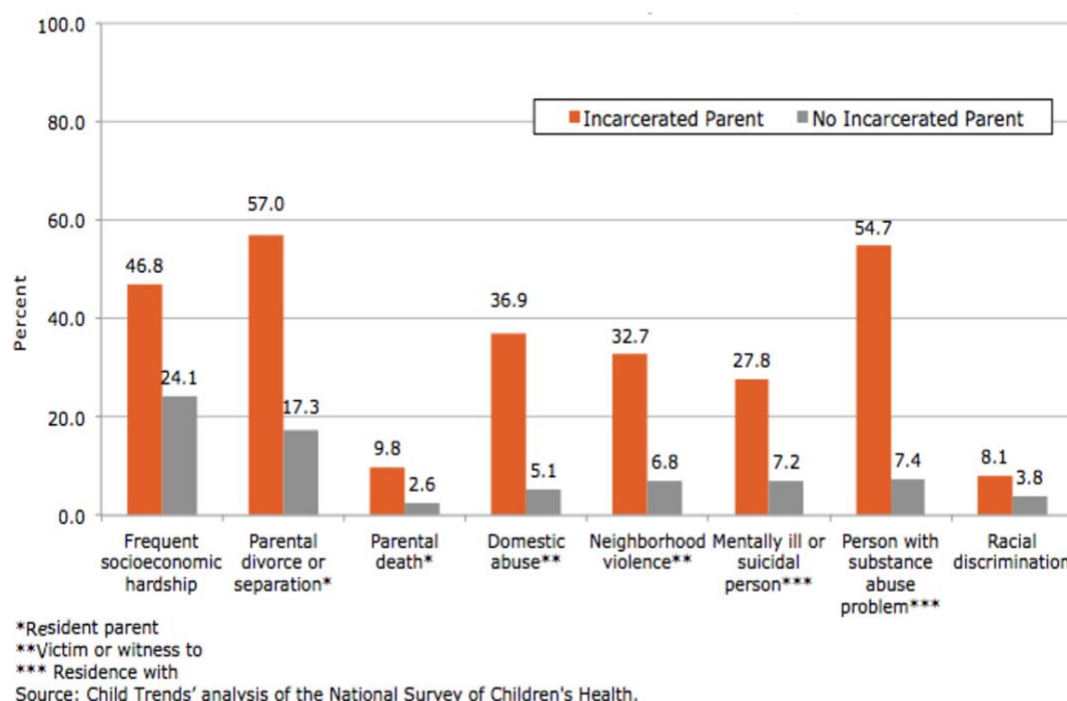


Figure 4: [The Vicious, Traumatizing Cycle of Parental Incarceration - Pacific Standard](#)

According to Bree A, (2012) In spite of the gap in research, there exist a convincing postulation that parental involvement with CJS- Criminal Justice System leaves adverse psychological marks on the children, an example of this is weakened association with age mates. This separation may cause different traumas including stigmatization, difficult parent-child bonding, financial difficulties, and unstable and difficult living situation, the children may also express antisocial behavior, hyperactivity, uncontrollable anger, aggression and criminal behavior.

Furthermore, studies have shown that children with an imprisoned parent (especially the father), as in the case study on this report develop language, academic and cognitive issues Turney, K et al (2019).

Poverty

According to Taylor-Robinson D et al (2013), statistics shows that between 2013 and 2014 a total of three million seven hundred thousand UK children were living in poverty, that is, every 3 out of 10 children. In addition, the level of children increases sporadically from year to year.

The impact

Children living in poverty are connected with adverse academic outcomes as well as extended negative social outcome. It also has an effect on the readiness of the children to attend school, at age 5, children living in poverty are a year behind their mates, at age 11, only a few make it to the government's 2 levels and again, about 21% of these children achieve five excellent GCSE- (general certificate of secondary education) grades(A to C). Hair N et al, (2015).

From Hirsch D, (2008) studies, it is exposed that children growing up in underprivileged situations are at more risk of death caused by cancer (lungs and stomach), respiratory-related deaths, accidents and alcohol, coronary heart disease, and haemorrhagic stroke. Furthermore, homelessness can adversely influence health, level of stress, living conditions, privacy etc., during a research by Davie, (2016) he showed that homelessness makes it difficult for a parent to adequately pay attention to sick or disabled children all these contribute negatively to the child's well-being.

Analysis

There is nothing as essential as child/children welfare. Children needing protection and help merit valuable and first class support is soon as the needs of the child is been discovered. This child is seen as a child in need as in the Child Act 1989 which stipulates: a child is seen as in need when without the intervention of the local authority would not be able to attain a high quality life.

The Children Acts of 1989 and 2004 laid out precise responsibilities. Section 17, Act 1989 places responsibility on local authorities to offer services to children in their area who are considered to be in need, despite their location. Section 47 on the other hand obligate these authorities to make enquires as to whether or not the child concerned is truly in need. In Section 11 of the Child Act 2004 these authorities' duties can be carried out with full support from their partners who also have their place in the process. Under section 10 of the 2004 Act, the local authorities are embedded with the task of enhancing unity between itself and its partnering organisations in order to better the welfare of local children.

In the case study above, the local authority practitioners as well as their partners employed an exact intervention plan as the children and family were at several risks and the children were seen as being in need. Also, direct evaluation was needed to ascertain the state and truthfulness of the case study

Assessment Framework

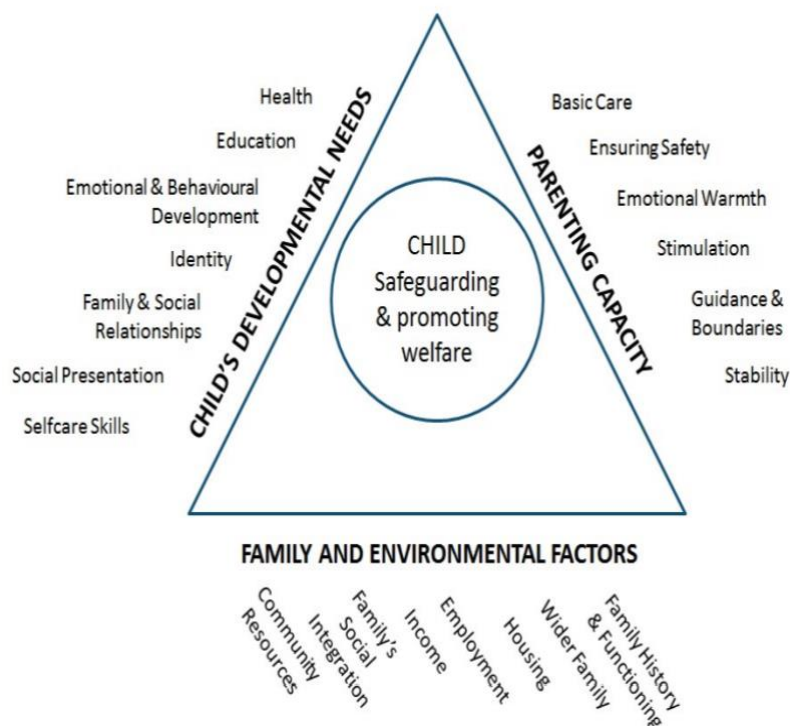


Figure 5: [Assessment Framework diagram from 'Working Together to Safeguard...' | Download Scientific Diagram](#)

In this case study, the intervention was based on the assessment in accordance with *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2018). The assessment of children environmental needs versus parental capacity and environmental factors came out negative as the family was already poor, had terrible family history, and no stability to keep the children safe or maintain a roof over their head.

The intervention was in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1991), article 24, 26, 27, 28. Article 24 poses a responsibility on UK Government to assist children general wellbeing, the intervention here ensured that the children were taken care of adequately, article 28 covers the right to education and the intervention made sure that the daughters resumed and held up school attendance. Article 24, ensures that a child benefits from social security, therefore the intervention in this case study provided financial support and covered for their housing difficulties and social security in general. Article 27 states that any and every child has the right to adequate standards of living. And lastly, during the intervention, the Equality Act was put into consideration, therefore it was administered, without any form of bias.

Results Of Intervention

The intervention worker attached to the family established great trust level with the family and started with understanding their difficulties. She made sure the eviction date that was already set was postponed as she decided to help the family pay for the house, clear the dirt in the surrounding and help the “mother figure” with work in the garden.

She went ahead to confront the father about his cannabis habit and called up support for him from a treatment service. She worked steadily with the dad and mum to make sure the children started going to school daily, and their attendance has upraised from 38% to 94% . Helped the mum get help from her mental disorder. She helped the family stop their daughter’s sexual activities within the house.

Dad is on a six month project and is getting attended t bases on his mental health and drugs problems. He has started a new habit of playing football rather than hang around other addicts. The mum is able to make future plans as she has regained her confidence.

Evaluation

The family’s new way of life can be called success as inference is drawn from the Maslow’s hierarchy of needs which is an inspirational theory comprising of five layers of human needs. From the diagram below, once those needs where met, the family began a normal and more worth-living life.

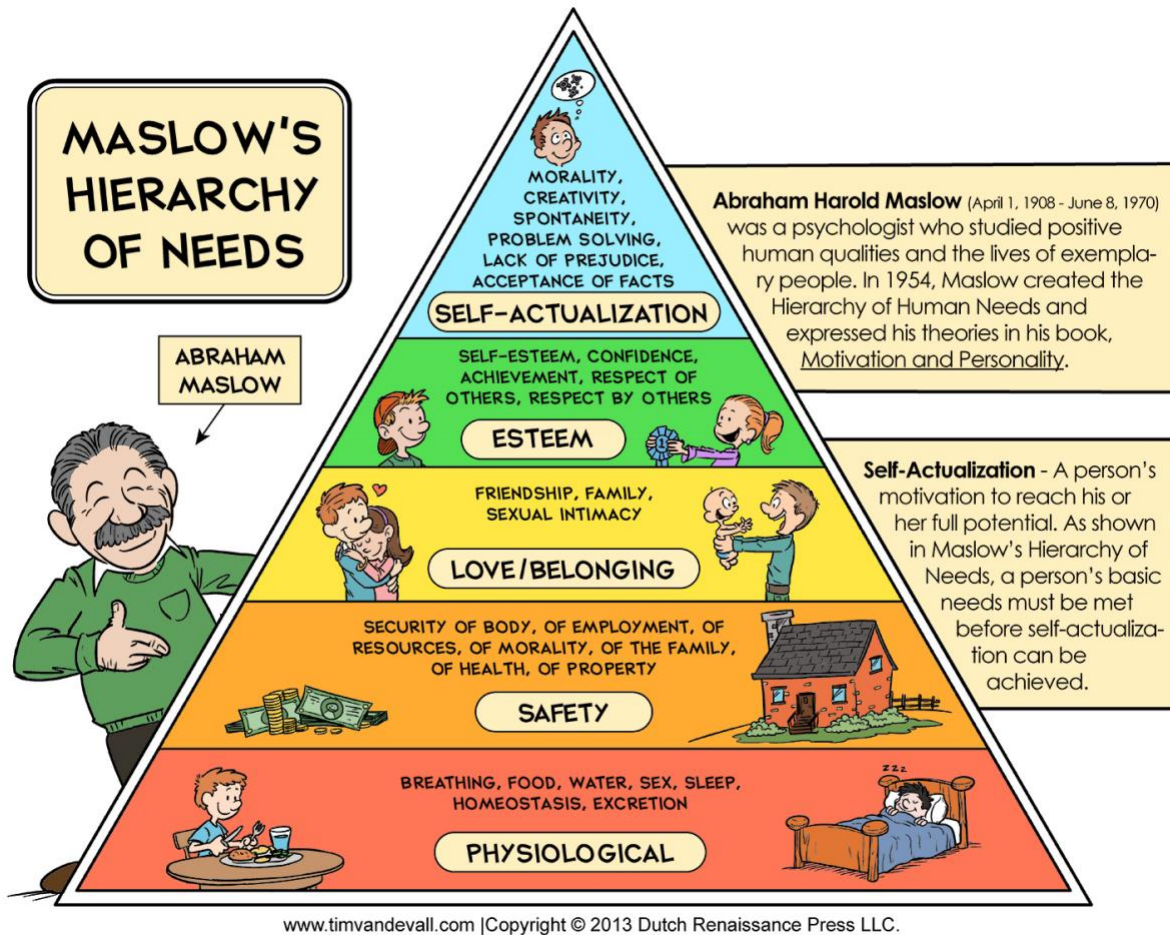


Figure 6: [Maslow's Hierarchy of Entrepreneurial Needs | Dan Martell](#)

In summary, better universal services are to be provided for children, more services should be included in order to eradicate difficulty, and adequate support for families confronted with adversities. Children development is a complex system which combines relationships affected by different surrounding environment from the family, to culture, customs, laws, etc. According to Bronfenbrenner a child is not only influenced by the family but also by social services healthcare provision, welfare systems available, and other factors that consisted his ecosystem theory. All these exposures and surroundings should be adequately looked into in order to give a child the best of life.

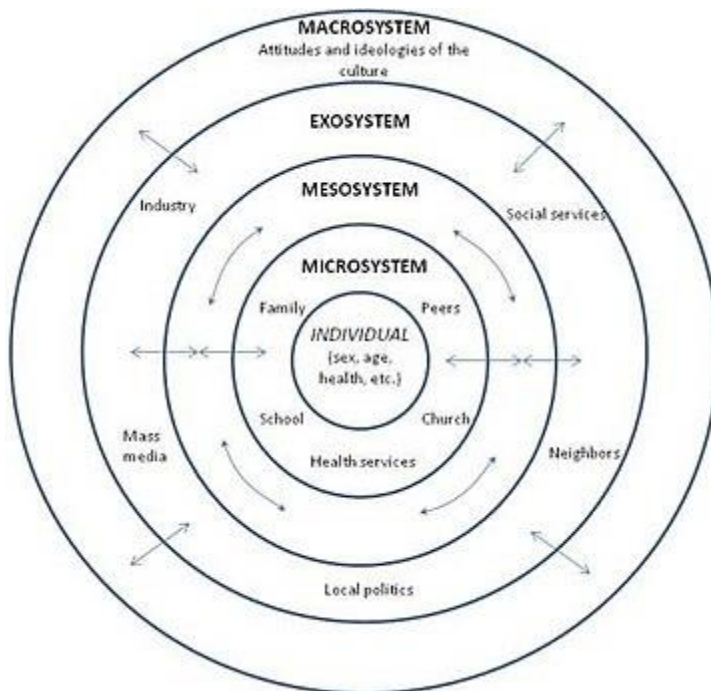


Figure 7: [Ecological systems theory - Wikipedia](#)

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