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Comprehension story 17

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow, using your own words wherever possible.

There is another feature of present-day society which has played a part in the development of a counseling profession. It is the instability generated by the rapid changes that have been occurring in our ways of life. Sociologists as well as poets have labeled this an “age of anxiety”. Various writers have called attention to factors creating insecurity in the individual, factors ranging all the way from broken homes to threats of atomic annihilation. It is true that it would be very difficult to prove that this age is more anxious than previous periods. There is no statistics which permit us to compare the incidence of even the major psychoses from century to century, and it is even more impossible to gauge the comparative frequencies of neuroses and the lesser varieties of disequilibrium. Nevertheless, in the books we write and the pictures we paint there is much to suggest that the prevailing mood of our time is one of uncertainty and apprehension.

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The most serious of the social instabilities for the individual, if the conclusions of psychiatrists and other mental health workers are sound, is the threat to the family. Among the clients who come to a counselor with personal problems, a very considerable proportion is children of divorced parents. Sometime during their childhood, long before emotional growth was completed, they have been confronted with problems of conflicting loyalties that would have strained even the capacities of maturity. The counseling process constitutes for them a new opportunity to think the whole thing through and assimilate the experience and the consequences in their later development.

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If divorce itself were the only problem, however, our task would be considerably easier than it is. It is the emotional conflict that lies at the back of these break-up rather than the separations themselves which unsettle children. Naturally, not all persons seeking psychotherapy are products of divorce, most if not all of them reflect in their attitudes the strain to which their childhood homes were subject. For every marriage that ends in the divorce courts there are probably several more which generate tensions almost as severe. Children in these homes have had to learn to cope with bitterness, hatred, neglect and confusion and to put up some sort of defenses against the anxiety such attitudes bring. 25

It goes without saying that social problems are not to be solved by counseling alone. Many agencies and organizations are concerned with the family and are attempting to improve an unsatisfactory situation there. To the extent that long-range educational programmes aimed at improving family relation succeed, counseling to ameliorate the effects of bad family situations will become less necessary. For the present, however, home difficulties are a major source of problems for workers in three types of setting. Child guidance clinics are attempting to help the children themselves at time when their problems are most acute. Marriage counselors have developed a specialized service for men and women who wish to try to salvage their relationship rather than to break it off. General counseling agencies in schools, even when their principal function is to help students make good educational and vocational choices, also help individuals to understand and modify emotional attitudes that have grown out of home environment. 30 35 40

Many other social problems of our time are reflected in the insecurities client bring to counselors. The rapidity with which urbanization has proceeded has brought into the incredibly complex city environment large number of individuals whose upbringing has not prepared them to cope with it. Threats of war, and actual wars in which our country is involved, ... not only add the complexity of the task of career planning, but also face young men and women with difficult choices among conflicting values. The constant threat of unemployment arising from technological changes hangs over men and women most of whom have no control over their own jobs. The emphasis 45 50

a competitive society places on the success inevitably produces anxiety in persons who cannot be sure that they are “winners”.

While the counselor, a citizen, may be vitally connected with these social problems in their entirety, it is particular aspects of them, often not the most important, that confront him in his day to day work. Possibility of sudden death and destruction does not seem to produce as much anxiety as do minor worries about one’s own immediate future. Will I be drafted this year or not? Shall enlist now or wait? What good will it do me to study this term if I am not going to be allowed to finish my education any away? It is through such questions that troubled international situation makes its impact on individual: will I ever be able to get my grades up high enough so that I will be admitted to medical school? How can we keep up our country club membership and social activities that go with it unless it can make more money? How can I ever face mother if her sorority doesn’t pledge me? How can I get over my inferiority complex? Wherever I go I never feel good as other people. It is such problems that our competitive economic and social system raises for each person. They may seem trivial by comparison with the larger social issues, but they are the stuff of individual human experience.

Questions

- (a) Suggest a suitable title for the passage (02 marks)
- (b) Explain what the author means by
- (i) “conflicting loyalties” (line 18) (03 marks)
 - (ii) “but they are the stuff of individual human experience”
(line 65 – 66) (03 marks)
- (c) In not more than 100 words, give a summary of problems a counselor has to deal with (12marks)
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- (d) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage, using your own words wherever possible
- (i) annihilation (line 06) (02 marks)
 - (ii) Gauge the comparative frequencies (line 09) (02 marks)
 - (iii) Of uncertainty and apprehension (line 12) (02 marks)
 - (iv) assimilate (line 20) (02 marks)
 - (v) lie at the back of (line 22) (02 marks)
 - (vi) ameliorate (line 33) (02 marks)
 - (vii) salvage (line 38) (02 marks)
 - (viii) principal function (line 39) (02 marks)
 - (ix) technological changes (line 48) (02 marks)
 - (x) inferiority complex (line 63) (02 marks)
- (20 marks)

Spellings, Punctuation and Grammatical Expression (SPGE) (10 marks)

Suggested answers

(a) Suggest a suitable title for the passage (02 marks)
Problems of counselors have to deal with
Challenges of present day counselors

(b) Explain what the author means by

(i) “conflicting loyalties” (line 18) (03 marks)
In Dilemmas to which of the two parents to rely on or support / inability to take sides about parents issues

(ii) “but they are the stuff of individual human experience”
(line 65 – 66) (03 marks)

It means they matters that cause human anxiety

Or

They are the issues that affect individuals

(c) In not more than 100 words, give a summary of problems a counselor has to deal with (12marks)

Problems a counselor deal with

Counselors handle a wide range of issues, helping individuals navigate through various challenges in their lives. These include anxieties and emotional distresses cause by family instabilities and divorce; political insecurities such as wars and threats of war, lacks employment, job loss and job security due to raising technological advances; strained relationships; coping with urbanization pressures; carrier choices for students, academic challenges, social pressure for success, status issues to mention a few.

(d) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage, using you own words wherever possible

(i) annihilation (line 06) (02 marks)
extinction

(ii) Gauge the comparative frequencies (line 09) (02 marks)
assess how often anxiety occurs

- (iii) Of uncertainty and apprehension (line 12) (02 marks)
Anxiety and stress caused by not knowing what will happen next
 - (iv) assimilate (line 20) (02 marks)
absorb/adjust
 - (v) lie at the back of (line 22) (02 marks)
resulting from/caused by
 - (vi) ameliorate (line 33) (02 marks)
amend/better
 - (vii) salvage (line 38) (02 marks)
recover/rescue/save/prevent relationship from breaking up
 - (viii) principal function (line 39) (02 marks)
main objective; chief objective; main purpose
 - (ix) technological changes (line 48) (02 marks)
scientific progress/ industrial innovations/ hi-tech progress/automation
 - (x) inferiority complex (line 63) (02 marks)
feeling of inadequacy/worthlessness/low self-worthiness
- (20 marks)

Spellings, Punctuation and Grammatical Expression (SPGE) (10 marks)

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Thanks

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