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Personality

The term personality has been derived from the Latin word “personare” which means “to speak through”.

Personality refers to the sum of internal and external traits of an individual, which are relatively stable and which make the individual different from others.



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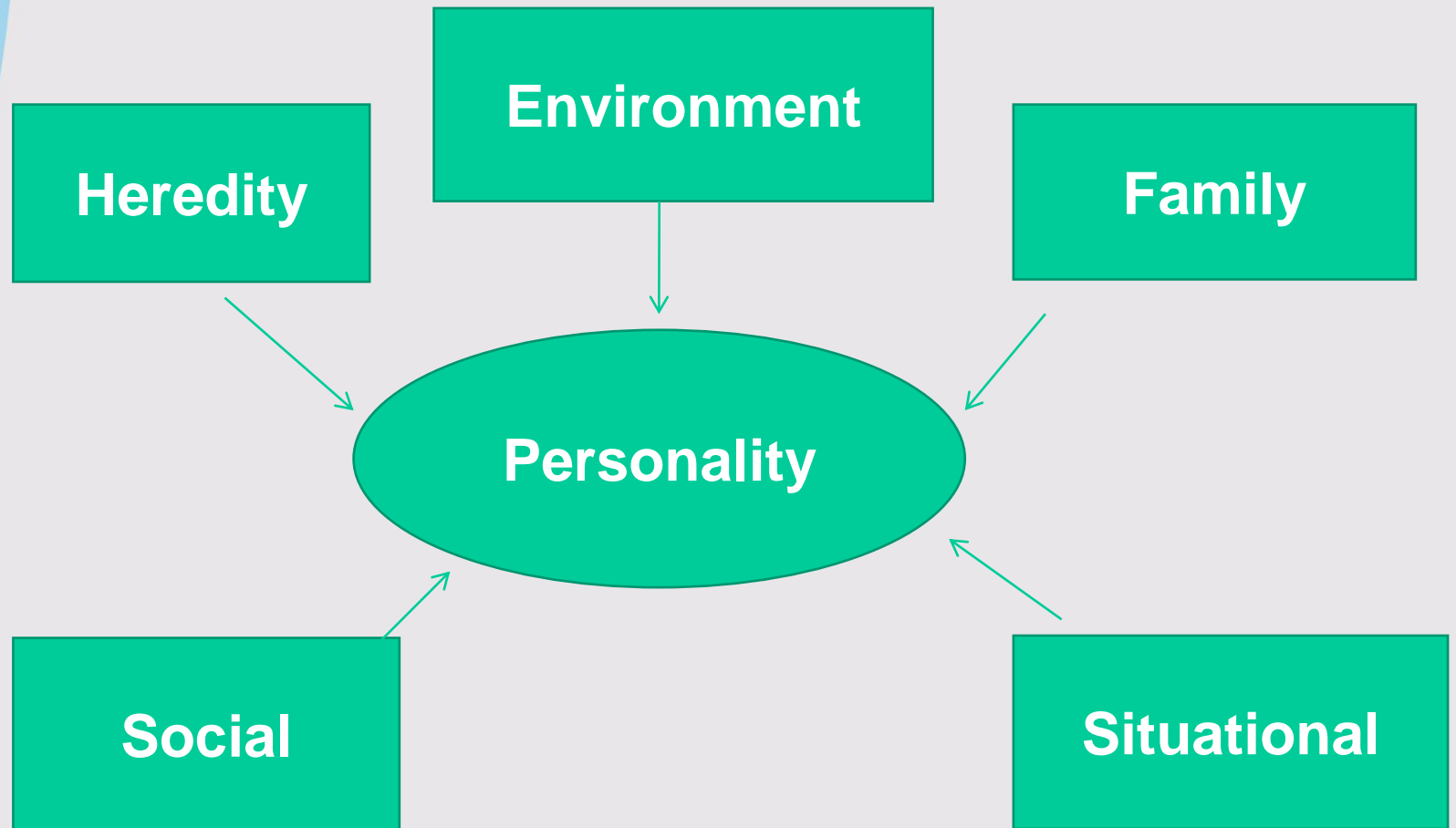
Nature of personality:-

- a) Personality has both internal and external elements. The external traits are the observable behaviours what we notice. For example, sociability. Internal elements are thoughts, values and genetic traits.
- (b) An individual's personality is relatively stable.
- © An individual's personality is both inherited as well as shaped by the environment.
- (d) Each individual is unique in behaviour.



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Determinants of Personality





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The following are the important factors influence the shaping of our personality.

Heredity: Heredity refers to the transmission of the qualities from the parents to the children through a biological mechanism. Physical structure, facial attractiveness temperament, sex, muscle composition and reflexes are examples that are generally influenced by one's parents. Heredity plays an important role in determining one's personality.



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Environment:- The environment i.e., one's early conditioning, the family norms, friends and social groups put an impact on one's personality formation. The cultural environment in which people are raised plays a major role in shaping personality. Most cultures expect different behaviours from males and females. A poor boy raised in an urban slum is expected to behave differently in some respects from a well – to- do raised in a middle-class town or colony.



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Family:- The family has considerable influence on personality development, particularly in the early stages. For example, children raised in orphans are much more likely to socially and emotionally maladjusted than their counterparts raised by parents in a warm, loving and stimulating environment. Parents have more effect on the personality development of their children as compared to other members of the family. Besides parents, siblings (brothers and sisters) also influence shaping of personality. Elders serve as models for younger.



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Socialization process:- The continuous impact of different social groups called, socialization process, also affects the personality. Socialization process starts with the initial contact between a mother and her infant. After infancy, other members of the immediate family, followed by social groups (peers, school friends and members of the working group) play influential roles.



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Situation:- Individual's personality does change depending on the situation. For example, the same person while facing an employment interview and while enjoying picnic with his/her friends in a public park behaves quite differently depending on two different situations.

Eg., worker- power, achievement- bureaucratized work situation- aggressive or lazy.