Adolescent Psychology Assignment 1

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The development of cognition, when defined by three theories of nativist, empiricist, and interactionist, explores different ways of cognition development. The nativist theory believes in the inborn or innate growth of thinking process. According to this theory, it is the innate ability of a brain to think and form cognitions (Moshman, 2004). This happens due to a brain organ known for the linguistic mechanism; this helps in converting the symbols and sounds into a meaningful substance whereas the empiricist theory believes that the critical factor in cognitive development is the environment. The surroundings are the ultimate reason for shaping the thinking processes.

The light shed by interactionist theory on cognitive development is that social-cultural interactions determine the development of thinking processes. It agrees to the innateness of cognition development, but it also believes that by communicating with others the cognitions are appropriately developed. It describes the developmental procedure of cognitions through examples like, when human being develops thinking according to the situation and circumstances in which they have to act (Moshman, 2004).

Piaget explained the theory of cognitive development as a continuous process which happens due to the maturation of biological factors and environmental interaction. He disregarded the idea that intelligence is a trait which cannot grow or enhance. Also, he focused entirely on the cognitive development of a human. Whereas, Kohlberg also focused on cognitive development, but the difference between these two theories is that, Kohlberg extended this theory towards moral development.

Kohlberg postulated that cognitive development also enhances the development of moral thoughts. Although Piaget didn’t focus on this side of the theory, he got restricted to the innateness of development of intelligence (Moshman, 2004). Also, the second main difference is that Piaget devised four stages which ranged till adolescence. However, Kohlberg extended it throughout the lifespan of a person.

**References**

Moshman, D. (2004). *Adolescent rationality and development: Cognition, morality, identity*. Psychology Press.