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Challenges of Identity Security and Insecurity in the Postmodern Age

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Abstract

The security of the individual's identity witnesses various threats by the postmodern culture that has introduced new challenges to the process of the self's individuation in the development of one's identity. The formation of identity is developed on many levels; however, it stands on strong pillars like self-other relations and sense of belonging, forging one's identity and security is a long process, in which society plays an important role in its construction not only in terms of ethnic, religious, linguistic differences, but also in terms of a wide range of 'self-other' dynamics. Various factors make up a person's actual identity, including a sense of continuity, a sense of uniqueness from others, and a sense of affiliation based on their membership in various groups like family, ethnicity, and occupation. According to Jungian psychology, individuation is a process of psychological integration and self-realization by which individual beings are formed and differentiated. Forming a secure identity is a challenge in a globalized society living in an age characterized by uncertainty and known by fragmentation, reflexivity, and media saturation. The postmodern culture witnesses the breaking down of major structures in one's life which complicates the individuation process in introducing issues of insecurity and hybridity. Besides, the division between the so-called 'real' and 'unreal' is collapsed and vast excesses of postmodern society are allowed to spiral out of control. The postmodern culture puts the individuation process in forming a secure identity in front of difficult challenges that require new strategies of adaptation.

Key words: Postmodern Culture, Individuation, sense of belonging, insecurity, fragmentation, identity.