

# Chapter 1 – Human Behavior

## A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH

- **Multidimensional**
  - o Can focus on feature separately but cannot be understood without also considering the other features.
- **Multidetermined Behavior**
  - o Behavior that develops as a result of many causes
- *Personal Dimensions*
  - o **Biopsychosocial Approach** = human behavior as the result of interactions of integrated biological, psychological, and social systems.
- *Environmental Dimensions*
  - o Physical, Culture, Social Structure and Social Institutions
  - o Formal Organizations, Communities, Social Movements
  - o Small Groups, Families, Dyads
- *Time Dimensions*
  - o **Linear Time** = time in terms of a straight line (past, present, future); the most common way that humans think about time.
  - o **Time Orientation** = used to describe the extent to which individuals and collectivities are invested in the 3 temporal zones (past, present, future).
    - Cultures differ in their time orientations (past-positive, past-negative, present-hedonistic, present-fatalistic, future, transcendental future).

## DIVERSITY, INEQUALITY, AND PURSUIT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

- **Globalization**
  - o Process by which the world's people are becoming more interconnected economically, politically, environmentally, and culturally .
  - o Aided by rapid advancements in communication technology.
- *Diversity*
  - o **Heterogeneity**
    - Refers to individual-level variations – differences among individuals.
    - Allows us to recognize the uniqueness of each person and situation.
  - o **Diversity**
    - Used to refer to patterns of group differences.
    - Recognizes social groups, groups of people who share a range of physical, cultural, or social characteristics within a category of social identity.

- *Inequality*
  - o **Privilege**
    - Social categorizations create unearned advantage for some groups and disadvantage for other groups.
- *The Pursuit of Social Justice*
  - o **Common Mechanisms of Oppression**
    - Economic power and control; myth of scarcity; defined norm; the other; invisibility; distortion; stereotyping; violence and the threat of violence; lack of prior claim; blaming the victim; internalized oppression; horizontal hostility; isolation; assimilation; tokenism; emphasis on individual solutions.

## **SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE: THEORY AND RESEARCH**

- *Theory*
  - o **Hypotheses** = tentative statements to be explored and tested, not facts to be applied.
  - o **Science** = set of logical, systematic, documented methods for answering questions about the world (scientific inquiry).
  - o **Theory**
    - An interrelated set of concepts and propositions, organized into a deductive system that explains relationships among aspects of our world.
    - Gives us a framework for interpreting person and environment and planning interventions.
  - o **Concepts** = building blocks of theory
    - Symbols (mental images) that summarize observations, feelings, or ideas.
    - Allows us to communicate about the phenomena of interest.
  - o **Propositions** = assertions formed by theoretical concepts
  - o **Deductive Reasoning** = theories that we can use to generate specific hypotheses to test in unique situations.
  - o **Assumptions** = beliefs held to be true without testing or proof.
    - **Objective Reality** - exists outside a person's consciousness
    - **Subjective Reality** - reality based on personal perception
    - **Determinism** - human behavior determined by forces beyond the control of the person.
    - **Voluntarism** - people free and proactive agents in the creation of their behavior.

- *Empirical Research*
  - o **Empirical Research**
    - Careful, purposeful, systematic observation of events with the intent to note and record them in terms of their attributes, look for patterns in those events, and make methods and observations public.
  - o **Positivist Perspective**
    - Modern science is based on several assumptions
    - The world has an order that can be discovered, findings of one study should be applicable to other groups, complex phenomena can be studied by reducing them to some component part, findings are tentative and subject to question, and scientific methods are value-free.
  - o **Quantitative Methods of Research**
    - Preferred from the positivist perspective.
    - Use quantifiable measures of concepts, standardize the collection of data, attend only to preselected variables, and use statistical measures to look for patterns and associations.
  - o **Interpretist Perspective (Constructionist)**
    - Share the assumption that reality is based on people's definitions of it and research should focus on learning the meanings that people give to their situations.
  - o **Qualitative Methods of Research**
    - More flexible and experiential
    - Designed to capture how participants view social life rather than to ask participants to respond to categories preset by the researcher.
  - o **Postpositivism**
    - Philosophical position that recognizes the complexity of reality and the limitations of human observers.
    - Scientists can never develop more than a partial understanding of HB.
- *Critical Use of Theory & Research*
  - o **Critical Thinking** = thoughtful and reflective judgment about alternative views and contradictory information.