Assessment
The Basis of Classification

Psychology 311
Abnormal Psychology

Listen to the audio lecture while viewing these slides

Overview

- No single tool is perfect
- Use a variety of methods
  - Interviews
  - Intelligence tests
  - Neuropsychological tests
  - Personality tests
  - Behavioral Assessments

Interviews

- Two types
  - Assessment Interview
    - Designed to gather information and assess behavior
  - Therapeutic Interview / Therapy Session
    - Designed to modify maladaptive behavior or thoughts.

Want to Find Out

- Who is the client
- How do they think / feel
- What is their history / background
- What is their current psychological state
- How vulnerable and resistant is the client

Mental Status Examinations

- Designed to explore
  - Thought content
  - Speech
  - Mood
  - Perception
  - Mannerism
  - Hygiene
  - Attention
  - Orientation
  - Memory

Structured Interviews

- Uses standardized questions
  - Are the same for everyone
  - Ask the questions, then rate the client
  - Advantage
    - Increases Reliability and Validity
  - Disadvantage
    - Does not allow flexibility
    - Hard to develop rapport
Diagnostic Interview Schedule (DIS)

- Is a structured interview
- Designed to permit diagnoses of certain disorders.
  - e.g., panic attacks
- Uses specific questions for each client
- Has instructions for interpretation
- Result
  - Can be used by trained professionals or others.

Intelligence Tests

- First widely used psychological assessment tool
- Were used in schools and in clinical situations.
- Two categories of tests
  - General Intelligence
    - Global capacity to solve problems
  - Specific abilities
    - Spatial perception
- Can be used by trained professionals or others.

Binet

- First to use age as a consideration
- Introduced the concept of mental age
- Developed the Binet intelligence test
- Ultimately became the Binet-Simon

Turman

- Developed the concept of the Intelligence Quotient (IQ)
- Mental age / Chronological Age

Wechsler Tests

- Intelligence is measure by a wide range of abilities
- Uses three scores
  - Verbal
  - Performance
  - Full Scale
- Tests are scored separately

Types

- Weschler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS)
  - Used for Adults
- Weschler Intelligence Scale for children (WISC)
  - Used for children
- Weschler Intelligence _____ Scale for Infants
  - Used in very young children
Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children

- Test emphasis is on short term memory
- Measures Sequential and Simultaneous
- Many items are non-verbal
  - Examines processing
- Designed to avoid cultural bias.

Neuropsychology tests

- Designed to measure
  - Cognitive aspects
  - Sensimotor Aspects
  - Perceptual consequences of brain abnormality.
- Many types

Bender Visual Motor Gestalt

- Client is asked to copy a series of figures
- Accuracy is compared to the established norm
- Behavior is also assessed while doing the test.
- Example

Conclusion of Structured Tests

- All restrict freedom of expression
- Are standardized
  - Can develop norms and compare your client to the “Average” person

Personality Assessment

- Designed to gather information about characteristics that are hypothesized to create your personality.
  - May be asked True / False questions about yourself
  - May be asked to rate statements about some attribute or character.
- Many types

Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI)

- Most recent version MMPI – 2
- Contains 567 items
- Includes scales on
  - Hypochondriasis
  - Depression
  - Hysteria
  - Hysteria
  - Masculinity / Femininity
  - Schizophrenia
  - Also has an anger scale
  - Also have several control scales (e.g., lie scale)
Rating Scales
- 1 = Always  7 = Never
- Allow a more versatile way for people to provide information about yourself.
- Can have a "Halo Effect"
  - When a person rates an individual or self more favorably,
  - Occurs because of favorable interaction

Projective Techniques
- Assumption
  - You get more meaningful descriptions of yourself and your personality if your answers are free.
- Derived from psychoanalytic theory.
- Persons are shown ambiguous stimuli
  - Record the response
- Many types of tests

Rorschach Inkblot Test
- Developed by Herman Rorschach
- Have 10 cards ½ colored, ½ black and white
- Present the card and ask. "What do you see?"
- Further ask
  - "What gave you that impression?"
  - Can you tell me more?"
- Poor reliability and validity
  - Primarily targets insight
- Is a good "Ice Breaker" test

Thematic Apperception Test (TAT)
- 30 cards showing people in a variety of situations
- Give the card
  - Describe the story. What were the events leading up to it
  - What are the people thinking
- Clinicians record responses while watching and noting body language.

Word Association Tests
Sentence Completion Tests
- Present a word or sentence and have client respond to:
  - the first thing that comes to mind
  - fill in the blank
- Example
  - Your Mother _________
  - Your Father _________

Other Projective Tests
- Self Portraits
- Finger Painting
- Telling Stories
Conclusion

- All designed to provide insight into
  - Underlying motives
  - Unconscious
  - Underlying issues

- Designed to get at maladaptive behavior.

Behavioral Assessments

- Developed out of the behavior therapy movement.
- Are used to find defects in a client profile
  - Example
    - Johnny or Susie does not get along with peers
    - Throws tantrums, bites people, hits teachers, etc.

Supplemented by

- Intelligence tests
- Personality tests – social relations
- Client interviews
- Structured behavioral observations

Conclusions

- Has no connection to the unconscious
- Are more concrete
  - When does it occur, how frequent, when do events occur
- Are more modifiable
  - Find the appropriate reinforcers or punishers that are driving the behavior
- Collect baseline information
- Conduct intervention
- Compare later behavior to baseline

Cognitive Assessment

- Are not the same as intelligence tests
- Usually involve questionnaires
- May have electronic beepers
  - When beeps, record thoughts you are having
- Is a new area of testing.

Relational Assessments

- Evaluates key relationships
  - What is the sociocontext
  - Focuses on family interactions, family roles, etc.
- Topics
  - What were holidays like?
  - Who makes family decisions?
  - What do siblings like to do?
  - What did your parents argue about?

- Need to understand the social network
Physicial Assessments

- May techniques
- Some are involved in medicine
  - MRI, CT Scans, X-Rays
    - Examines brain structures
  - FMRI, PET, SPECT
    - Examines brain function
- Others non-medicine
  - Polygraph, Biofeedback, Pupil Dilation
    - Examines stress levels