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Topic wise content

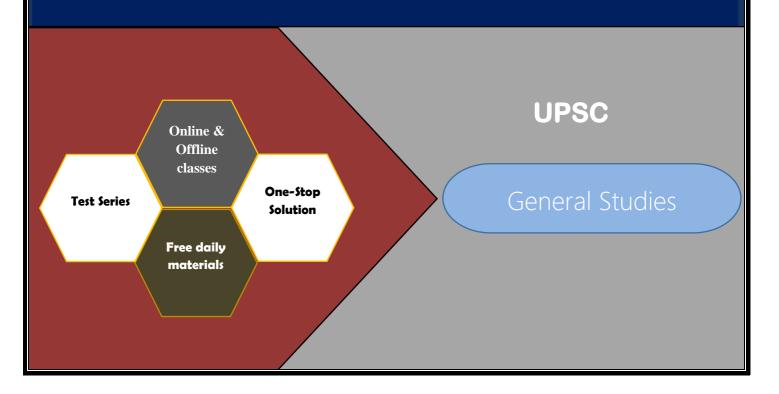


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Peter Pan Syndrome

Notes for civil services preparation





Peter Pan Syndrome

- Recently, a special court in Mumbai granted bail to an accused of sexually assaulting a minor as he
 was suffering from Peter Pan Syndrome (PPS).
- A **syndrome** is a **combination of symptoms and signs** that together represent a disease process.

Key Points

About:

- PPS is a psychological condition that is used to describe an adult who is socially immature.
- People **who develop similar behaviours** of living life carefree, finding responsibilities challenging in adulthood, and basically **never growing up** suffer from PPS.
- The term was coined by **psychologist Dan Kiley** to explain the behaviour of such men who 'refuse to grow' and behave their age in 1983.
- Dan Kiley got the idea of PPS after noticing Peter Pan, a **fictional character created by Scottish novelist** James Matthew Barrie.
- Peter Pan was a care-free young boy, who never grew up.
- While the **WHO** (**World Health Organization**) does not recognise Peter Pan Syndrome as a health disorder, **many experts believe it is a mental health condition** that can affect one's quality of life.

Symptoms:

- PPS hasn't officially been diagnosed as a health disorder, there are no clearly-defined symptoms
 or characteristics or even reasons which cause it.
- However, it could affect one's daily routine, relationships, work ethic, and result in attitudinal changes.

People Affected:

- It can affect anyone, irrespective of gender, race or culture. However, it appears to be more common among men.
- It **affects people who do not want or feel unable to grow up,** people with the body of an adult but the mind of a child.
- They don't know how to or don't want to stop being children and start being mothers or fathers.
- It is **not currently considered a psychopathology.** However, a large number of adults are presenting emotionally immature behaviors in Western society.





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• **Psychopathology** is a term which refers to either the **study of mental illness or mental distress** or the manifestation of behaviours and experiences which may be indicative of mental illness or psychological impairment.

Wendy Syndrome

- The Psychologist who defined PPS also used the term **Wendy Syndrome** (**WS**) to describe **women** who act like mothers with their partners or people close to them.
- People suffering from WS are often seen making decisions, tidying up messes, and offering onesided emotional support.



