

Chapter 12 Summary

- Psychology remains a theoretical discipline so long as it answers the questions “what?” “when?” and “why?” It becomes an applied field when it starts searching for some specific answers to the questions “How to use?” or “How to change?”
- Overall, poverty, social, and ecological problems affect people’s health-related activities. There are also cultural practices that are considered unhealthy or wrong, including spousal abuse and child labor.
- Many contemporary psychologists are only at the beginning stages of understanding spirituality, a source of motivation and reasoning for many people living in traditional cultures. Spirituality refers to a broad range of phenomena concerning “nonmaterial” matters related to faith, trust, and hope.
- Contemporary cross-cultural psychology makes a contribution to organization development, which is a set of planned changes targeted at improving organizational and individual performance and well-being in a private business or government company.
- There are similarities and differences in negotiating styles and conflict-resolution strategies. Knowledge about the other side’s cultural strategies is a key to successful negotiation.
- Assuming that cognitive tests are not biased against particular cultural groups and the child has adequate proficiency in the language of testing, the teacher or parent can improve the child’s test performance.
- Working with immigrants, psychologists often help them to overcome an acculturative stress: an initial reaction of adjustment to a new culture. Specialists understand acculturative stress as a distressful psychological reaction to any unfamiliar cultural environment, a set of complex psychological experiences, usually unpleasant and disruptive.
- Although psychologists do not have the power of judges or legislators, they can express their opinion regarding a wide range of legal issues related to culture and behavior across ethnic and national lines.
- Working abroad in nondemocratic countries, specialists are likely to deal with the restrictive practice of censorship and resistance to change.

Key Terms

Acculturation Considered in the context of immigration, the process of an individual’s adjustment to a new culture.

Censorship The restrictive practice of reviewing and determining what is appropriate for publication or broadcasting—according to moral, ideological, or political considerations.

Counseling The act of providing psychological direction or advice as to a decision or course of action.

Organization Development A set of planned changes targeting at improving organizational and individual performance and well-being in a private business or government company. Applied to cross-cultural psychology, organization development means the creation of an atmosphere that incorporates cultural and cross-cultural knowledge into the work process to increase both the overall efficiency and psychological satisfaction in the workplace.

Pseudo-science Knowledge and its applications that appear scientific but are not based on the scientific method.

Refugee One who has left one’s native country and is unwilling or unable to return to it because of persecution or fear of persecution (because of race, religion, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion).

Spirituality A broad range of phenomena concerning “nonmaterial” matters related to faith, trust, and hope, in contrast to “material” matters related to ownership, accumulation of possessions, and competition. In psychological context, spirituality emphasizes mind over matter, being over having, and mental effort over physical action.