

Glossary of Terms

Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) - sometimes referred to as **Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or ADD/ADHD:**

A clinical diagnosis applied to children and adults who consistently display certain characteristic behaviors excessively which create a real handicap in the person's life, beginning before age seven and persisting over a long period of time. These characteristics include:

- Poor ability to sustain attention to tasks
- Impaired ability to control impulses and delay gratification,
- Excessive activity and physical restlessness.

*(DSM-IV Diagnostic and Statistical Manual
of the American Psychiatric Association)*

Class:

Hierarchical ranking of society into groups. Some people are from the privileged class while others fit into other levels with people who have similar status.

Culture:

A common system of values, behaviors, beliefs and relationships which create a sense of community among individuals. These have developed in response to historical, political, economic and social realities.

Disorder:

A condition in which there is a disruption in normal thought processes.

*(Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders,
3rd Edition. Washington, D.C.: American Psychiatric Association)*

Ethnicity:

The political and social construct used by individuals and communities to define themselves and others. It implies the consciousness of having a shared history, nationality, language, religion, or life-experience based on such factors.

*(The Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work:
Anti Racist Training and Materials Project Resource Inventory)*

Immigrant:

A **Landed immigrant** is a person who seeks lawful admission to establish permanent residence in Canada.

(Immigration Act [2])

Landed status may be acquired if an applicant's sponsor is willing and eligible to sponsor the applicant and the applicant is a member of the "family class".

(Immigration Regulations)

Mid-size urban centre:

Cities smaller than the major ones for the particular province. In Saskatchewan, this refers to cities smaller than Saskatoon and Regina.

(Lamba, Mulder & Wilkinson's and Task Force on Mental Health Issues Affecting Immigrants and Refugees' definitions)

Neuroendocrine system:

Endocrine system in which chemical messengers (hormones) are released by neurosecretory neurons, specifically the hypothalamus and pituitary glands, through the circulation system, to other body cells. Often involved in stress reactions. (e.g. www.animal-info.net/gloss_eng/definitions.html)

Psychophysiology:

Refers to the branch of physiology (science that deals with living organism) dealing with mental phenomena.

Refugee:

An involuntary immigrant. Any person who by reason of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion,

- a) is outside the country of the person's nationality and is unable or, by reason of that fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country, or
- b) not having a country of nationality, is outside the country of the person's former habitual residence and is unable or, by reason of that fear, is unwilling to return to that country, and

(United Nations 1951 Convention, and its 1967 Protocol)

Stress:

The process of adjusting to circumstances that disrupt, or threaten to disrupt, a persons equilibrium.

(Bolander, V.R. (1994). Sorensen and Luckman's Basic Nursing, 3rd Edition. Toronto: W.B. Saunders)

Sympathetic nervous system:

Part of the autonomic nervous system that consists of nerves that supply the internal organs, blood vessels and glands and balance the action of the parasympathetic nervous system (associated more with calmness and rest than with alertness).

(Canadian Oxford Dictionary, 1998)

Trauma:

An emotional or psychological shock that may produce disordered feelings or behavior.

(Tabers Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary, 2001, 19th Edition. D. Venes, Ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davies)

Visible minority:

Persons of color who are visibly different from the dominant group and who are non-white or non-Caucasian in race. The term is also used to define persons who are, because of their race or colour, a visible minority in Canada. Racial minorities include the following groups: Black, South Asian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Southeast Asian, Filipino or other Pacific Islander, Arab or West Asian, Latin American.

(Women in the Labour Market (1993), Ontario Women's Directorate)

Within the immigrant, refugee and visible minority community, this term is used to distinguish persons who, by ancestry, belong to a visible minority but who were born in Canada.

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