



Peter Pan Syndrome

Why in News

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.
 - **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 one-sided emotional support.**

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