

---

# Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Is still Relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

---

*Showkat Ahmad<sup>Dar1\*</sup>, Dr. P. Sakthivel<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1\*</sup>Research Scholar of Public Administration, Annamalai University Tamil Nadu, India

<sup>2</sup>Professor of Political science, Annamalai University Tamil Nadu, India

Corresponding Email: <sup>1\*</sup>darshowkat41@gmail.com

**Received:** 20 April 2022    **Accepted:** 02 July 2022    **Published:** 08 August 2022

*Abstract: You may be familiar with Maslow. Possibly even a fan. Alternately, you may stop listening the instant a psychologist starts spitting forth a theory. If you Google "Maslow" or his "hierarchy of wants," you'll likely see a colourful pyramid as the result. But given that this particular thinker passed away fifty years ago, what does it signify and can it really still be applicable? The present demands and the benefits of the system have altered significantly in the more than 70 years since the renowned psychologist launched his theory. Even after all this time, it's still important to think about whether Maslow's hierarchy of needs is still true. If you don't already know, in a nutshell, Maslow thought that people's needs can be neatly grouped into five categories. Each category comes into play once the needs in the previous category have been met. Greg Stocker, a Lean Advisor, says that Maslow never really talked about the hierarchy in terms of a pyramid. Instead, the diagram was made much later to make the theory clear. The goal of the study is to see how well Maslow's hierarchy of needs still works in the 21st century. For the study to come to a conclusion, it used both descriptive and analytical methods. The study also relied heavily on thematic analysis tools and both primary and secondary data sources to achieve its goals in a qualitative way.*

**Keywords:** *Applicability, Hierarchy, Needs, Maslow, Reorganization.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Maslow's hierarchy of needs is a psychological theory outlining the items that people consider to be essential to their well-being. However, the theory focuses on how and why we meet these wants rather than the needs themselves. According to Dr. Aimee Daramus, a certified clinical psychologist, "Maslow's hierarchy of needs is a hypothesis of motivation." According to Maslow, "we're motivated to meet each of the basic needs listed on the hierarchy in order," with requirements like immediate and long-term safety being met before higher-level needs like love, respect, or self-actualization can even be considered. Maslow's original presentation of the hierarchy of needs included a breakdown into five levels, from first to fifth, based on his personal priorities. The subsequent popularity of the pyramidal

representation of his idea is largely attributable to him. There are "lower tier" needs, "middle tier," and "higher tier" needs, and these are the categories that correspond to them.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs has been roundly criticized, yet it also has significant advantages. This approach "truly takes into consideration our deepest shortcomings and struggles, as well as our finest capabilities," as Kaufman puts it. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, "humans are full of numerous demands, and some of them are more important than others, but ultimately we are capable of fully reaching our potential."

Maslow wrote in his 1943 paper, "It is certainly true that man lives by bread alone – when there is no bread," about the importance of material wealth to the survival of humans. But when there is always enough food to satisfy hunger, what happens to man's appetites? Maslow believed that when people's basic needs were addressed, they naturally aspired to greater and greater heights.

As per Maslow, "without a moment's delay other" (and "higher") needs arise, and they, instead of physiological cravings, overwhelm the creature [person]. The fulfilment of each progressive arrangement of requests leads to another arrangement of requirements, every one of which is considered "more prominent" than the one preceding it. This is the very thing we mean when we say there is an order of significance among the most major human needs.



Source: <http://nmprod.s3.amazonaws.com>

## 2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

A fresh perspective on human needs has emerged as a result of Maslow's work. Maslow's hierarchy of needs, for instance, is commonly utilized in health and social work as a means of evaluating a client's requirements. A person's future happiness might be negatively impacted if they let problems or challenging circumstances at one point in their life to force them to become overly focused on a specific set of requirements. Maslow's theory of needs seems to describe needs that everyone has. However, studies suggest that the fulfilment of these requirements has little to do with the order in which they are supplied. The purpose of this research is to determine whether or not Maslow's hierarchy of needs is still relevant in the twenty-first century.



### **3. METHODOLOGY**

This investigation strikes a balance between a descriptive style and an analytical one. In order to do so, it relies heavily on secondary sources like newspaper and magazine articles, reports based on investigations, and similar research. Individual observations also form the basis of an analysis, alongside the aforementioned element. With a focus on secondary sources and a thematic analysis, this study took a qualitative approach.

### **4. DISCUSSION AND RESULTS**

Maslow's progressive system of necessities is a famous mental hypothesis for inspiration, and many individuals are know about it with regards to human turn of events. In a review distributed in 1943 and developed in his book *Motivation and Personality* distributed in 1954, Abraham Maslow acquainted this thought with the world. Rather than zeroing in on the people who were harmed by his speculations, Maslow took a gander at the existences of those he considered "praiseworthy," like Albert Einstein and Eleanor Roosevelt. A great many people are know about a pyramidal portrayal of Maslow's ordered progression of prerequisites, in which physiological, security, and having a place/love needs sit at the base, trailed by development needs (regard and the zenith of self-completion). For extra data on Maslow's progressive system of necessities, look at this article from *Psychology Today*. A Lean Advisor named Greg Stocker cases that Maslow never really introduced the pecking order as a pyramid. Rather, the pyramid shape was concocted a lot later as an improved on way to deal with show the thought.

#### **4.1 A look at the world via Maslow's eyes**

Maslow wrote in his 1943 paper, "It is certainly true that man lives by bread alone – when there is no bread," about the importance of material wealth to the survival of humans. But when there is always enough food to satisfy hunger, what happens to man's appetites? Maslow believed that when people's basic needs were addressed, they naturally aspired to greater and greater heights.

#### **4.2 That which is good**

Taking this stance toward human beings and psychology is a significant step in the right direction. This "opened the path for later movements such as humanistic psychology and positive psychology," according to a BBC World Service news article. "Maslow also presented the idea that our wants always change: if one need is met then so we desire the need above it," wrote P&MM, a motivational firm, about applying Maslow's theory to HR tasks.

The raise we got last year won't keep us spurred for the following five years, the honor we got quite a while back will not fulfill our requirement for appreciation at this moment, and the instructional class we required a long time back will not satisfy our craving to acquire new abilities and information at the present time.

#### **4.3 Results from actual studies**

Maslow compiled his findings through extensive interviews and observations of successful persons he chose. According to an assessment of the theory's empirical backing,



"Longitudinal studies evaluating Maslow's gratification/activation proposal showed no support, and the meagre support garnered from cross-sectional studies is doubtful due to various measurement issues."

Coming up next were underscored in the BBC World Service article: At Maslow's place of graduation, Brandeis University in Massachusetts, his replacement, clinician Margie Lachman, uninhibitedly surrenders that her ancestor gave no exact confirmation to his speculation. He needed "the wide hypothesis, the stupendous goals," and he needed another person to "carry it to the hardest logical test," she says. It "never fully happened as expected." Other flaws were pointed up by Simply Psychology, such as the "biased sample of self-actualized persons, mainly limited to highly educate white males" (including Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Albert Einstein, William James, Aldus Huxley, Gandhi, and Beethoven).

They continue by saying that while Maslow did do research on women who had achieved self-actualization, such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Mother Teresa, these women were in the minority in his sample. This complicates the application of his theory to women and people of lower socioeconomic status or of various ethnic backgrounds.

#### **4.4 A view from TJ's camp**

In the L&D On Trial piece of the July TJ web recording, Editor Jon Kennard and I analyse this issue. As indicated by Jon, "a whole verifiable worth of painters and writers will let you know that this request is trash. Self-completion, the most elevated level, can be considered "understanding one's possible by many methods, including imaginative ones." I'm certain any semblance of Vermeer, Rembrandt, Toulouse-Lautrec, Van Gogh, Elgar, Mozart, and Debussy, every one of whom were destitute sooner or later in their lives, would have a remark about it! To be sure, Jon proceeds, "history is packed with instances of this," to the degree where "poor people craftsman" is perhaps of the most predominant generalization: "totally realized yet without sufficient food, cover, close associations, or a considerable lot of the guaranteed staples of the lower levels of the Maslow scale." Insufficient observational examinations are the issue, as I would like to think. I figure Maslow worked really hard by noticing individuals he thought had worked really hard in their area and pulling some arguments from it. The scarcity of after war logical exploration and the subsequent predisposition against Western white guys are relics of the post bellum time, yet additionally neglect to hold up to the examination of and application in the globalized, interconnected universe of today. Go ahead and utilize Maslow's order of prerequisites in your ventures, however do as such while taking other factors into consideration and a feeling of point of view.

#### **4.5 Hierarchy of needs**

We begin with our PHYSIOLOGICAL NEEDS since they are the groundwork for everything else. Air, food, water, sleep, and a safe place to live are all necessities. All rather fundamental, but of the utmost significance no matter who we are or what we do. According to Maslow's theory, these must be met before moving on to the next level of needs. (I can't argue with that; it's hard for me to pay attention to anything when I'm hungry, and don't hold your breath for me to be even remotely logical or insightful when I'm exhausted.)

After these requirements are met, we can shift our attention to our desire for safety. Our insatiable desire for a sense of safety and security. When we're young, it's probably as simple

as being in the same room with our parents or a special relative. In later years, these are more likely to include things like financial stability, a steady job, and good health.

Have you settled that matter? Great! If Maslow is correct, then we will priorities our desire for LOVE AND BELONGING, which includes our relationships with our loved ones, our community, and the world at large. As a species, humans are naturally sociable. (Although, I will admit, I do have an ex that doesn't agree with that!)

Then follows our ESTEEM, which encompasses our respect for and belief in oneself as well as our esteem of others. Maslow stated there are two parts to these requirements. Being confident in ourselves comes first. The second is having the sense that other people appreciate and acknowledge us and our efforts.



Source: @careershodh

#### 4.6 A Diagnosis of Drafts and Plots

**Research has not borne out Maslow's hierarchy of wants.**

Even though it's undeniable that humans require food and water to survive, it's been impossible to pin down precisely what those needs are for every person on the planet. "There is no reason to suppose that there is a universal order that they should be satisfied in," Daramus argues, referring to the lack of consensus on the nature of basic human wants. According to studies in personality and social psychology, there is significant individual and culture diversity in the importance placed on the satisfaction of basic needs.

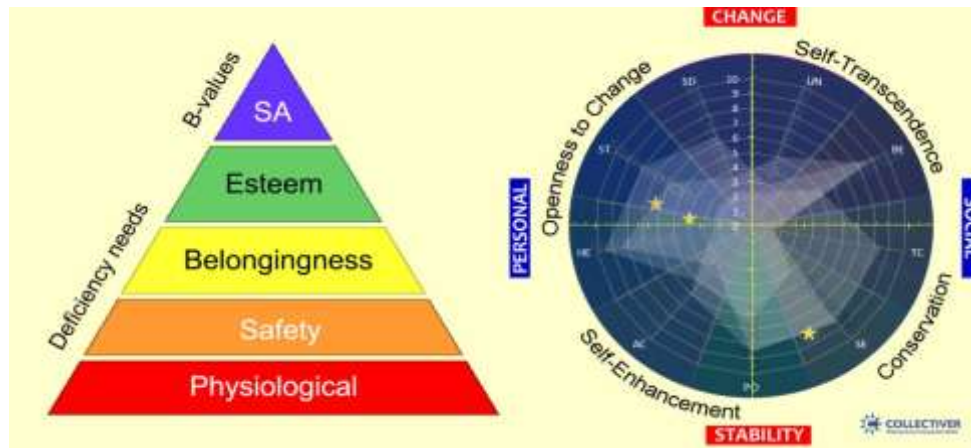
Counsellor for social skills development Viktor Sander explains that "The number of unknowns prevents a thorough scientific investigation from being carried out at this time. Exactly how does one recognize when a requirement has been satisfactorily met? When deciding the needs at a specific level to assess, how do you know which ones to focus on? If someone is promoted, when does that happen?"

From 2005 to 2010, researchers from 123 countries attempted to demonstrate this with the help of 60,865 people. In order to test the validity of Maslow's hierarchy, participants were asked a series of questions concerning their own needs. The findings corroborated what has been said about universal needs, showing that satisfying them is not necessary to move on to what Maslow considers less pressing needs.

The idea additionally presupposes that people will act solely in response to their own requirements. "Today we know that we humans do not simply act on our needs," Sander



explains. "Many of our actions are in direct opposition to what our bodies actually require. How does Maslow's hierarchy of needs apply to the case of a monk or nun setting herself on fire as a form of protest?" The attacks on Maslow's hierarchy have only just begun.



Source: Wikipedia.org

#### 4.7 Opposition to Maslow's theory of motivational needs and motivational needs' hierarchy.

Sometimes the order of importance doesn't apply to needs.

When presenting Maslow's hierarchy, it is common to assume that a person must satisfy all needs at each level before moving on to the next. Everyone who has ever experienced desire or love can tell you that this isn't accurate. Daramus argues that even in dire circumstances, the need for respect or love can push people to take action. "College students have high rates of homelessness and food hardship, but they keep showing up to class and doing their best anyhow. As a result of their deep love for their children, some parents may opt to forego eating in order to provide for their kids."

Daramus urges us to consider it from a work-related angle as well. Taking a job you enjoy over one that pays more but you find less stimulating also goes against this hierarchical drive. Logic dictates that the most basic requirements be satisfied first, but since people are not dispassionate, this is not how it actually works in practise.

#### 4.8 Implications of superiority and superiority complexes are inherent in the structure of authority.

The fact that the theory doesn't work for everyone is the main point of criticism. "Maslow's hierarchy of wants is essentially based on Maslow's personal observations of primarily white, Western, successful men," adds Sander. "I worry that spreading this idea without discussing its flaws—namely, its Western ethnocentric biases—could have unintended negative consequences. It can cause one to form an inaccurate impression of the complexity of human beings and other cultures." For instance, according to Maslow's hierarchy, those who struggle to meet their basic needs (i.e., the poor) place less value on achieving higher levels of psychological well-being such as a sense of belonging and self-worth, as well as on realizing their full potential. It suggests that only the wealthy can afford to pursue their own dreams of self-expression, success, and improvement. Of course, this is not the case.



Unlike other motivational theories, Abraham Maslow's did not take the form of a pyramid. According to recent research, the concept of a hierarchical pyramid is deeply flawed. Neither a triangle nor a pyramid was ever drawn by him to symbolize it, as Kaufman puts it. "Many people portray things in this linear fashion, as though necessities follow a precise hierarchy. Compared to what I've seen from Maslow, he was considerably more relaxed about that." As a result, although the pyramid is commonly linked with his work, Maslow never actually employed it.

Consulting psychologist Charles MacDiarmid is credited by some scholars as the original creator of the pyramid. In an article published in 1960, he utilized a pyramid to illustrate the concept, which quickly gained traction.

#### **4.9 Is it still relevant to consider Maslow's hierarchy of needs?**

Maslow's hierarchy of needs has been roundly criticized, yet it also has significant advantages. This approach "truly takes into consideration our deepest shortcomings and struggles, as well as our finest capabilities," as Kaufman puts it. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, "humans are full of numerous demands, and some of them are more important than others, but ultimately we are capable of fully reaching our potential."

Maslow's hierarchy of needs can still be useful in modern society if it is viewed as a guide to our numerous demands rather than an order in which they must be addressed. Everyone has their own unique set of goals and motivations for prioritizing certain demands over others. Such adaptability is a hallmark of personality and ultimately defines how each of us makes our way through the world, meeting our many requirements as we go.

At last, at the highest point of that splendidly hued pyramid is something many refer to as SELF-ACTUALIZATION. This is, more or less, feeling satisfied and accepting that we are all that we can be. The detail of this is different for everyone, as a few of us are satisfied by having the option to help other people, a few by innovative or imaginative pursuits and accomplishments, some by arriving at the highest point of their picked field, and some by long lasting learned, to give some examples. Maslow was a piece miserable on this one, hypothesizing that moderately not many of us at any point accomplish self-actualization.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

Maslow's hierarchy of needs is the first scientifically accurate model of behaviour in humans. He clarified how human needs affect behaviour. He used psychoanalysis to understand human behaviour because he was a psychologist. Maslow's theory of motivation can be summed up as follows: there is a hierarchy of wants; humans are satisfaction-seeking animals; people are motivated by a never-ending search for greater satisfaction of needs; and a need that has been satisfied no longer drives behaviour. Maslow asserts that people often work to fulfill their psychological needs first. Once they are content, they stop influencing how people behave. Humans work to satiate their needs in a sequential order and step-by-step way because they are motivated by the next higher level need. As a result, the development of need is a slow process.

Therefore, it is both evident and intriguing that feedback and recognition may make such significant contributions to those same two critical layers. Maslow emphasised that having a sense of "belonging" includes both feeling loved and having love for other people. Therefore, it has never been more crucial for both recipient and sender to express gratitude to peers,



praise direct reports or colleagues, recognize others' accomplishments, and generally acknowledge the positive stuff. Hey, it's beneficial to your health. Personally, I believe Maslow was right on the money. Prove him wrong by showing some love to your coworkers and yourself so that you can both reach the dazzling top of self-actualization. I think the view is amazing from up there! I believe that the problem is a dearth of empirical research.

Maslow, in my opinion, did a nice thing by examining those individuals he thought had performed admirably in their fields and gleaned some talking points from it. In addition to being a holdover from the 1940s and 1950s, the lack of subsequent scientific study and the predominance of Western white males are also unsuitable for usage in today's globalised society. Use Maslow's hierarchy of needs in your business without a doubt, but do it with caution and a healthy dose of balance. Maslow's hierarchy of needs can still be applicable in today's culture when viewed as a guide to meeting our many demands rather than as a set order. Everyone has distinct priorities and justifications for prioritizing certain demands over others. Our originality depends on this flexibility, which affects how each of us progresses through life, determining our needs and all

#### **Conflict of Interest Statement & Funding**

The author affirm that he has no known financial or interpersonal conflicts that would have appeared to have an impact on the research presented in this study.

#### **6. REFERENCES**

1. Castleberry, A., & Nolen, A. (2018). Thematic analysis of qualitative research data: Is it as easy.
2. Cui, L., Wang, Y., Chen, W., Wen, W., & Han, M. S. (2021). Predicting determinants of consumers' purchase motivation for electric vehicles: An application of Maslow's hierarchy of needs model. *Energy Policy*, 151, 112167.
3. Freitas, F. A., & Leonard, L. J. (2011). Maslow's hierarchy of needs and student academic success. *Teaching and learning in Nursing*, 6(1), 9-13.
4. Adiele, E. E., & Abraham, N. (2013). Achievement of Abraham Maslow's Needs Hierarchy Theory among Teachers: Implications for Human Resource Management in the Secondary School System in Rivers State. *Journal of Curriculum and Teaching*, 2(1), 140-144.
5. Aruma, E. O., & Hanachor, M. E. (2017). Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs and assessment of needs in community development. *International Journal of Development and Economic Sustainability*, 5(7), 15-27.
6. Attride-Stirling, J. (2001). Thematic networks: an analytic tool for qualitative research. *Qualitative research*, 1(3), 385-405.
7. Benson, S. G., & Dundis, S. P. (2003). Understanding and motivating health care employees: integrating Maslow's hierarchy of needs, training and technology. *Journal of nursing management*, 11(5), 315-320.
8. Bouzenita, A. I., & Boulanouar, A. W. (2016). Maslow's hierarchy of needs: An Islamic critique. *Intellectual Discourse*, 24(1).
9. Cao, H., Jiang, J., Oh, L. B., Li, H., Liao, X., & Chen, Z. (2013). A Maslow's hierarchy of needs analysis of social networking services continuance. *Journal of Service Management*.





10. Compton, W. C. (2018). Self-actualization myths: What did Maslow really say?. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 0022167818761929
11. Cui, L., Wang, Y., Chen, W., Wen, W., & Han, M. S. (2021). Predicting determinants of consumers' purchase motivation for electric vehicles: An application of Maslow's hierarchy of needs model. *Energy Policy*, 151, 112167.
12. Dar, S. A., & Shairgojri, A. A. (2022). Ethics is more than Matter of Research. *Journal of Women Empowerment and Studies (JWES) ISSN: 2799-1253*, 2(03), 1-7.
13. Gambrel, P. A., & Cianci, R. (2003). Maslow's hierarchy of needs: Does it apply in a collectivist culture. *Journal of Applied Management and Entrepreneurship*, 8(2), 143.
14. Gambrel, P. A., & Cianci, R. (2003). Maslow's hierarchy of needs: Does it apply in a collectivist culture. *Journal of Applied Management and Entrepreneurship*, 8(2), 143.
15. Goyal, P. K. (2015). Motivation: Concept, theories and practical implications. *International Research Journal of Commerce Arts and Science*, 6(8), 71-78.
16. Huitt, W. (2007). Maslow's hierarchy of needs. *Educational psychology interactive*, 23.
17. King-Hill, S. (2015). Critical analysis of Maslow's hierarchy of need. *The STeP Journal (Student Teacher Perspectives)*, 2(4), 54-57
18. Lester, D. (2013). Measuring Maslow's hierarchy of needs. *Psychological reports*, 113(1), 15-17.
19. Maslow, A., & Lewis, K. J. (1987). Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Salenger Incorporated, 14(17), 987-990.
20. McLeod, S. (2007). Maslow's hierarchy of needs. *Simply psychology*, 1(1-18).
21. Milheim, K. L. (2012). Towards a better experience: Examining student needs in the online classroom through Maslow's hierarchy of needs model. *Journal of online learning and teaching*, 8(2), 159.
22. Oleson, M. (2004). Exploring the relationship between money attitudes and Maslow's hierarchy of needs. *International journal of consumer studies*, 28(1), 83-92.
23. Pulasinghage, C. (2010). Employee Motivation: What Factors Motivate Employees to Work in Nongovernmental Organizations (NGO) in Sri Lanka: A Study According to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Model. *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*, 5(4).
24. Singh, T., & Behera, M. P. (2016). Application of the Maslow's hierarchy of need theory: Impacts and implications on employee's career stages.
25. Ștefan, S. C., Popa, Ș. C., & Albu, C. F. (2020). Implications of Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory on healthcare employees' performance. *Transylvanian Review of Administrative Sciences*, 16(59), 124-143.
26. Tikkanen, I. (2009). Maslow's hierarchy and pupils' suggestions for developing school meals. *Nutrition & food science*, 39(5), 534-543.
27. Vignesh, M. (2016). An analysis of job satisfaction in relevance to the maslow's needs of self-Financed college lecturers in Madurai City. *Splint International Journal of Professionals*, 3(8), 81-88
28. Wachter, K. (2003). Rethinking Maslow's needs. *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences*, 95(2), 68.