

Applying Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory to Explore the Role of Mentoring for Vulnerable Rural Adolescent Males

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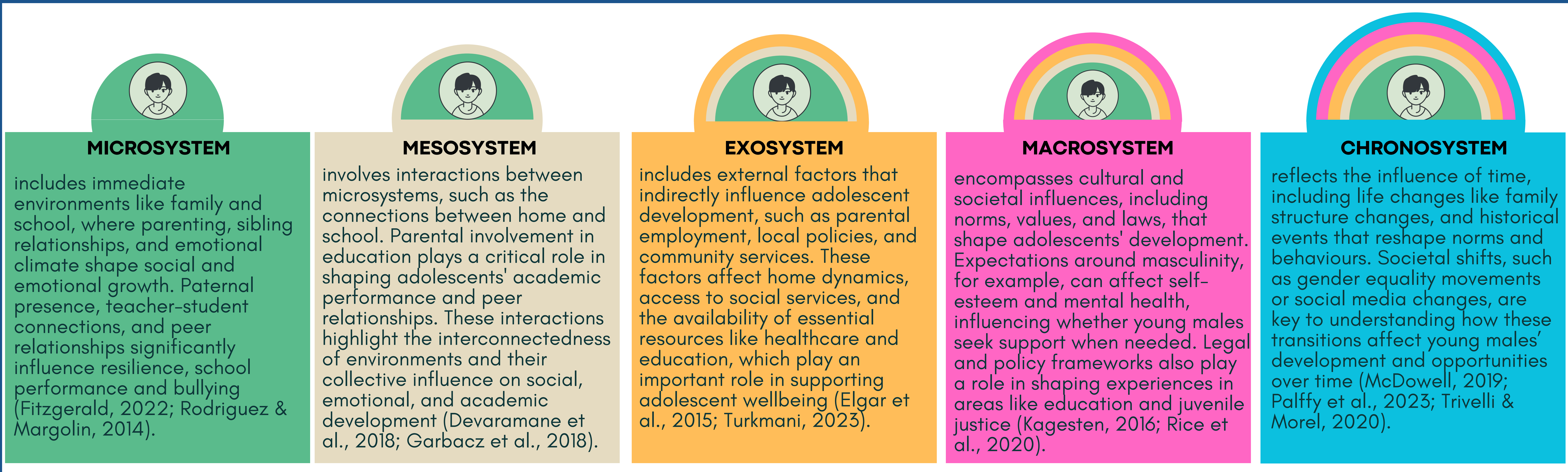
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Boys to the Bush MENToring initiative supports vulnerable adolescent males in rural areas by offering positive role models, fostering community engagement, and providing experiences in natural environments. This study applies Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory (EST) to analyse the complex influences on adolescent development, particularly for those facing unique challenges in rural and regional areas. According to EST, adolescent development is shaped by immediate relationships and broader societal and cultural factors.



Applying the Ecological Systems Theory Lens

An analysis of each environmental layer within the EST framework provides a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between proximal relationships, community resources, cultural norms, and life transitions in shaping the social and emotional well-being of rural adolescent males.

Using the EST Framework, this study aims to

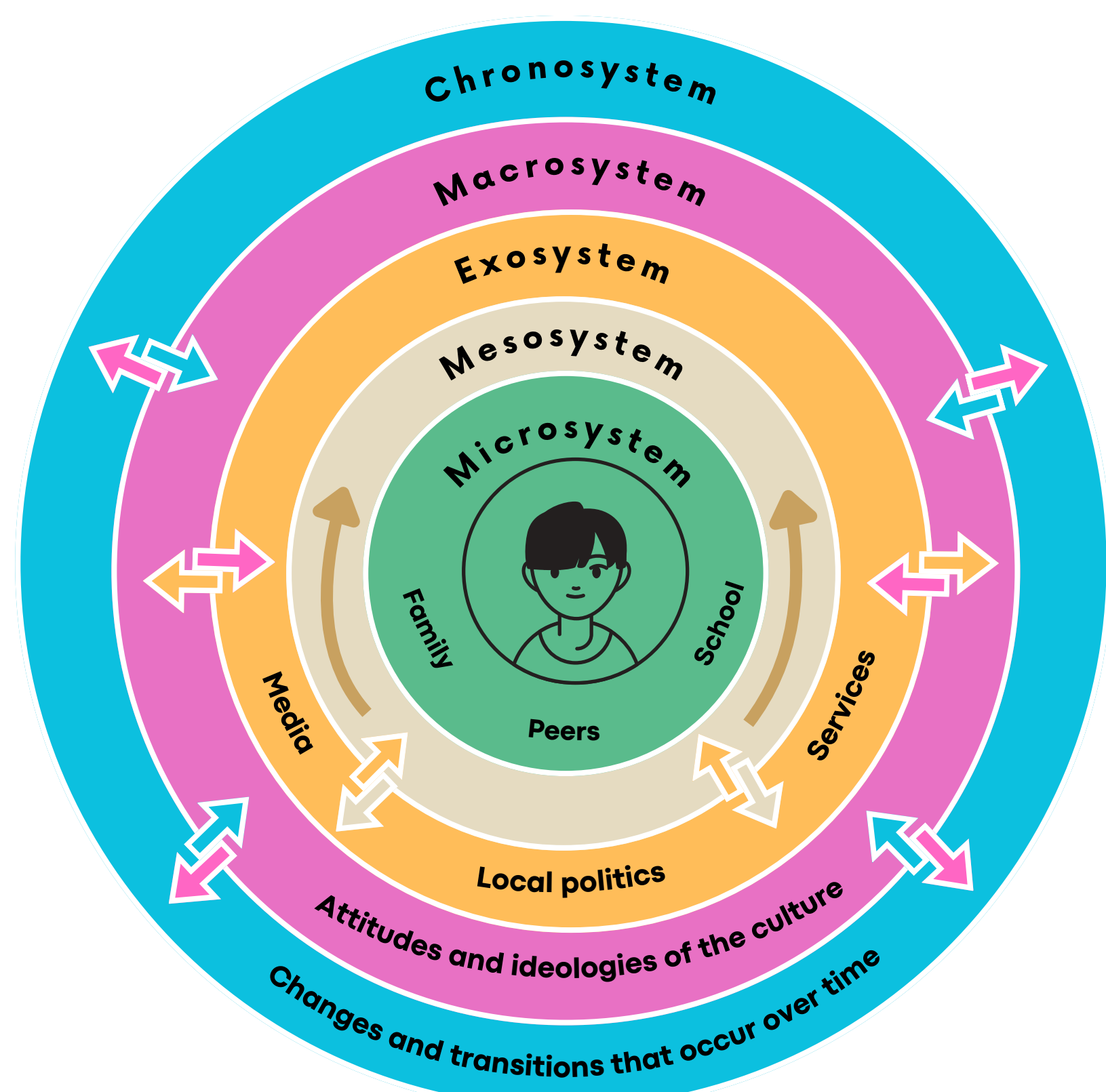
Microsystem: Explore the direct impacts of close relationships, such as family and mentors, on adolescents' perception of resilience and coping strategies.

Mesosystem: Explore how interactions between home, school, and mentoring programs reinforce or challenge positive developmental outcomes.

Exosystem: Assess the role of broader community supports, including local services and employment conditions, in shaping access to resources.

Macrosystem: Examine the influence of societal norms and values—particularly around masculinity and vulnerability—on mental health and behaviour.

Chronosystem: Consider how life transitions and broader social changes impact adolescent development over time, providing insights for sustainable support.



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