

Lesson 1: Introduction to Psychology and Pedagogy

Introduction to Psychology and Pedagogy

The term "psychology" is derived from two Greek words – psyche (soul) and logos (study). Thus, literally it means study of soul. But now it is no more considered as the study of soul. It has moved away from this focus and established itself as a scientific discipline which deals with the various processes and behavior of organism. Most of the contemporary psychologists agree on a definition of psychology as the scientific study of behavior and mental processes of organism. Scientific study means using techniques such as observation, description, and experimental investigation to collect information and then organizing this information. Mental processes refer to private and cognitive process such as attention, perception, remembering (memory), problem-solving, reasoning, decision-making, feelings, thinking, motives etc.

Definitions of Psychology:

Psychology is the scientific study of the behaviour of an individual. –Daniel

Psychology is the science that studies the responses which living individuals make to their environment. – Murthy

Psychology is the science of mental activity of an organism. –Guilford

Scope of Psychology:

The application of psychology has a very wide area in the study of human behavior as follows:

- To identify the nature and characteristics of learner.
- The nature of learning process.
- The principles of teaching and learning process.
- The human growth and development.
- The techniques employed in teaching.
- Identification of personality traits.
- Development and adjustment of psychological traits.
- Scientific measurement and evaluation of psychological traits.

Importance of Psychology:

The study of psychology as the science of human behavior helps in identifying:

- The abilities of individual.
- The needs of individual and the techniques to be employed to motivate them.

- The environmental factors and their affect on the behavior.
- The levels of achievement and motivation of the individuals.
- The factors that result in individual, intellectual differences.
- The factors that lead to differential perceptions.
- The causes of emotions and frustration in human beings.
- The causes of forgetting and how to improve memory.
- The levels of knowledge, attitudes possessed by the individuals.
- The different psychological traits possessed by individuals.

Pedagogy

Pedagogy is derived from the Greek word “paid” which means child and “agogos” which means leading. The word “peda” refers to children. It has most often emphasized educating children and teenagers. Thus, pedagogy has been defined as the art and science of teaching children. Pedagogy is the art or science of being a teacher or trainer. Pedagogy is the term traditionally used for instructional.

It is also defined as the methodology, strategies, techniques, and approaches that teachers or trainers can use to facilitate learning. Teachers take all the decisions regarding objectives, methods, pace and place of learning. Pedagogy is also sometimes referred to as the correct use of teaching strategies.

The Scope of Pedagogy

The scope of pedagogy can be summarized as below:

1. It forms an integral part of curriculum in all teacher education programs.
2. It helps the teacher to set educational goals in accordance with the needs and abilities. of the learner as well as the characteristics of the content material.
3. It provides the teacher deeper insight to the curricular material and enables him to plan for realizing maximum output.
4. It helps the teacher in pooling the resources required for effective instruction.
5. It would help the teacher to search for effective tools and to be prepared for handling such situations.
6. It enables the teacher to search for effective tools and techniques for continuous evaluation and to use the results of this evaluation for monitoring the instructional processes.

Interrelationship between Psychology, Pedagogy, and Language Teaching

Educational psychology is a cross-discipline of pedagogy and psychology. Its basic viewpoints and characteristics directly contact with teaching.

Education

In order to know the educational psychology; we have to first understand what is education. The word education is derived from Latin word “educare” which means to bring-up. Education is also derived from another Latin word “educere” which means to lead out. Education as “educere” is more acceptable as it means leading an individual from ignorance to knowledge. Education can be defined as the process of imparting or acquiring knowledge and habits through instruction or study. It can also be defined as a process in which human behaviour is modified so as to be in closer agreement with some model or ideal determined by the values of society. If education is to be effective, it should result in changes in all the behavioral components.

Educational Psychology

Educational Psychology is a combination or overlapping of two separate fields of study; psychology and education. It is a distinct discipline with its own theories, research methods, problems and techniques. Educational psychology is distinct from other fields of psychology due to its focus on understanding the processes of teaching and learning that takes place in formal environments. Educational psychologists study what people think and do as they teach and learn a particular curriculum in a particular environment where education and training are intended to take place. They help in developing instructional methods and materials used to train people in both educational and work settings.

Definitions of Educational Psychology:

- Educational Psychology is the branch that describes and explains the learning experiences of an individual and the progress in his educational development from birth to old age – Crow and Crow
- Educational psychology is the study of the psychological aspects of educational situation – Trow
- Educational psychology is distinct from other fields of psychology due to its focus on understanding the processes of teaching and learning that takes place in formal environments

Scope of Educational Psychology

Six major areas covered by Educational Psychology are:

- The Teacher
- The Teaching Situation
- The Learner
- The learning Process
- The learning Situation
- Evaluation of Learning Performance

Educational psychology is a cross discipline of pedagogy and psychology. Its basic viewpoints and characteristics directly contact with teaching.