



Educational Psychology

Education:

Developing the capacities and potential of the individual so as to prepare that individual to be successful in a specific society or culture is educational psychology. From this perspective, education is serving primarily an individual development function”.

Or

The process by which society transmits to new members the values, beliefs, knowledge, and symbolic expressions to make communication possible within society is called educational psychology. In this sense, education is serving a social and cultural function.

Psychology

“Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behavior, especially when it relates to individual human beings”.

Behavior and mental processes include overt, observable instances but also include subtle kinds of instances, like brain activity. Humans and many other creatures included in the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

Educational Psychology:

“Educational psychology is distinct from other branches of psychology because it has the understanding and improvement of education as its primary goal”.

It is a study of 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.

It is a combination of psychology and education. Educational psychology is a distinct scientific discipline within psychology that includes both methods of study and a knowledge base. It is concerned primarily with understanding the processes of teaching and learning that take place within formal environments and developing ways of improving those methods. Important topics include learning theories; teaching methods; motivation; cognitive, emotional, and moral development; and parent-child relationships. An academic definition would perhaps say that educational psychology is the study of learners, learning, and teaching. The accumulated knowledge, wisdom, and seat-of-the-pants theory that teacher should possess to intelligently solve the daily problems of teaching. Cannot tell teachers what to do, but it can give them the principles to use in making a good decision and a language to discuss their experiences and thinking.

Educational psychology deals with behavior of human beings in educational situation. This means that educational psychology is concerned with the study of human behavior or human personality, its growth, development, guidance under the social process of education.

Education is possible in human beings; hence, human learning is the “central core” of educational psychology.

What is Educational Psychology?

Educational psychology is mainly dealing with problems, processes, products of education. Meaning of Educational Psychology Educational psychology is one of the branches of psychology to study the behavior of the learner in relation to his education.

As specialized branch of psychology concerns itself with suggesting ways and means of improving the process and products of education, enabling the teacher to teach effectively and the learners to learn effectively with the minimum effort.

It is thus designated as the service of education. It has simplified the tasks and improved the efficiency of the teacher or all those connected in the process and products of education by supplying them with the essential knowledge and skills in much need the same way as science and technology has helped in making possible maximum output through minimum input in terms of time and labor in our day-to-day activities.

Educational psychology is that branch of psychology which deals with the application of psychological findings in the field of education. In other words it deals with the human behavior in educational situations. It is the systematic study of the development of the individual in the educational settings. It is the scientific study of human behavior by which it can be understood, predicated and directed by education to achieve goals of life.

Definitions of Educational Psychology

- **C.E. Skinner:** “Educational psychology is the branch of psychology which deals with teaching and learning”.
- **Crow and Crow:** “Educational psychology describes and explains learning experience of an individual from birth to old age”.
- **E. A. Peel:** “Educational psychology is the science of education”.
- **Trow** describes, “Educational psychology is the study of psychological aspects of educational situations”.
- **Stephens** says, “Educational psychology is the study of educational growth and development”.
- **Judd** describes educational psychology as, “a scientific study of the life stages in the development of an individual from the time he is born until he becomes an adult.”

In the words of E.A. Peel, “Educational psychology helps the teacher to understand the development of his pupils, the range and limits of their capacities, the processes by which they learn and their social relationships.”

Educational Psychologists, who is a technical expert in the field of Education, supplies all the information, principles and techniques essential for:

- Understanding the behavior of the pupil in response to educational environment and
- Desired modification of his behavior to bring an all-round development of his personality.

Thus, Educational Psychology concerned primarily with understanding the processes of teaching and learning that take place within formal environments and developing ways of improving those methods. It covers important topics like learning theories; teaching methods; motivation; cognitive, emotional, and moral development; and parent-child relationships etc.

In short, it is the scientific discipline that addresses the questions: “Why do some students learn more than others?” and “What can be done to improve that learning?”

Scope of Educational Psychology

1. Broad Field Addressing Behavioral and Social Development

Educational psychology is a multidisciplinary field that encompasses understanding how people learn and develop both socially and behaviorally. By examining the environmental, social, and cognitive factors influencing a learner's growth, educational psychology provides insights that help teachers and psychologists foster positive developmental outcomes.

This field contributes significantly to structuring an individual's perspectives, such as how they view learning, relationships, challenges, and problem-solving. As these perspectives form and evolve, they shape an individual's personality traits, self-concept, and emotional resilience, all of which impact both personal and academic growth.

2. Structuring Individual Perspectives

Educational psychology explores how individuals interpret their experiences, helping shape their personalities and develop unique personal traits. By studying various developmental milestones and learning processes, this field offers frameworks for understanding differences in behavior, learning styles, and social interactions. Teachers and psychologists can leverage this understanding to create personalized learning experiences and intervention strategies that cater to diverse needs, helping students build their self-esteem, sense of competence, and motivation.

3. The Four Stages of Cognitive Development

According to educational psychology, the human brain's development can be categorized into four distinct stages. The model primarily referenced here is Piaget's theory of cognitive development, which describes how children progress through these stages based on their interaction with the environment and experiences.

These stages include:

- **Sensorimotor Stage** (Birth to about 2 years): The child learns through sensory exploration and motor activities. They begin to understand object permanence and that objects exist even when not in view.
- **Preoperational Stage** (2 to 7 years): In this stage, children develop memory and imagination. They start using symbols and language but lack logical reasoning, often exhibiting egocentric thinking.
- **Concrete Operational Stage** (7 to 11 years): Logical thinking begins to emerge in children, who can now grasp the concept of conservation (understanding that quantity doesn't change even when its shape does) and organize objects according to multiple criteria.
- **Formal Operational Stage** (12 years and up): Adolescents and adults develop the ability to think abstractly, reason hypothetically, and deduce outcomes.

4. Development of Cognitive Abilities and Social Understanding

Educational psychology emphasizes that during each of these developmental stages, children acquire foundational cognitive and social skills. They learn how to interpret social cues, develop empathy, and establish relationships, which are essential for both academic and social success.

These abilities form the basis of problem-solving skills, adaptability, and the capacity for critical thinking. For instance, the shift from concrete to formal operational thinking marks a child's ability to engage in more abstract problem-solving and understand complex relationships.

5. Influence on Creativity, Intelligence, Morality, and Motivation

- **Creativity and Intelligence:** As children develop, they learn to express their creativity through play and later through structured learning, while their intelligence (both cognitive and emotional) continues to expand through problem-solving, reasoning, and academic learning.
- **Moral Development:** Educational psychology also considers moral development, often referenced through Kohlberg's stages of moral development, which explain how children evolve from understanding basic rules to internalizing ethical principles based on empathy and justice.
- **Motivation:** Motivation, both intrinsic (driven by internal rewards) and extrinsic (influenced by external rewards), is a major focus within educational psychology. Understanding motivation helps educators design strategies that inspire learning and engagement across various learning styles and personality types.

6. Heredity vs. Environment

One of the central debates in educational psychology is the influence of heredity (genetics) versus environment (upbringing and experiences) on a child's mental and

behavioral development. Heredity provides the genetic blueprint that can affect cognitive abilities, temperament, and certain personality traits, while the environment shapes how these genetic potentials are expressed and developed.

Educational psychology studies this complex interaction to better understand individual differences in learning abilities, behavior, and development. It explores how factors such as family background, cultural influences, and schooling impact cognitive and social skills, helping educators tailor strategies to individual needs. For example, two children may be exposed to the same educational material but demonstrate different levels of understanding, motivation, or creativity. Educational psychologists examine whether these differences are due to inherent cognitive abilities, environmental factors like family support and socioeconomic status, or a combination of both.

7. Analyzing Differences in Student Understanding

Educational psychology also investigates why students in the same classroom can exhibit varying levels of comprehension and engagement with the same concepts. These differences may arise from diverse learning styles, previous knowledge, and even individual psychological factors like self-confidence and motivation.

By identifying these reasons, educational psychologists help teachers develop instructional approaches that address a wide range of learning preferences and needs. This may involve creating a more inclusive curriculum, offering differentiated instruction, or implementing individualized support to ensure all students have a fair chance to succeed.

8. Primary and Secondary Needs of a Child

Educational psychology categorizes a child's needs into primary (basic, physiological needs) and secondary (psychological and social needs) to create supportive learning environments.

- **Primary Needs:** These include basic physiological requirements like food, safety, and physical comfort. Meeting these needs is crucial as they form the foundation of effective learning.
- **Secondary Needs:** These are emotional and psychological needs, such as a sense of belonging, self-esteem, and the need for achievement. Addressing these needs encourages engagement, persistence, and satisfaction in learning.

By understanding these primary and secondary needs, educational psychologists can recommend methods that support children holistically. For example, a supportive classroom environment that fosters a sense of safety and belonging helps students concentrate on learning and engage with the content.

9. Effective Learning Methods for Memory Retention

Educational psychology also studies the most effective learning strategies to help students retain information. This includes techniques like spaced repetition, active learning, and the use of multisensory approaches that engage different parts of the brain for better memory encoding and retrieval. The goal is to ensure that information is not only understood but also retained in long-term memory, allowing students to build a strong knowledge base. Educational psychology provides tools to strengthen memory retention, including using mnemonic devices, chunking information, and linking new information to prior knowledge.

10. Role of Creativity in Learning

Creativity is another critical focus of educational psychology. Recognized as an essential skill in problem-solving and adapting to new situations, creativity involves divergent thinking, or the ability to think in novel and flexible ways. Educational psychology supports creative development by encouraging learning environments that promote exploration, curiosity, and open-ended thinking. This can include activities that allow students to brainstorm, take risks without fear of failure, and work collaboratively on creative tasks. Techniques such as project-based learning, inquiry-based approaches, and encouraging “what if” questions all help foster creativity, allowing students to not only absorb knowledge but also to apply it innovatively.

A school should definitely have an educational psychologist to ensure the all-round development of its students motivating them, guiding them and counseling them in regular intervals. It has been observed that the use of educational psychology helps enhance the power of observation, understanding, listening, responding and application.

Goals of Educational Psychology

1. Exploring the Field of Educational Psychology

One of the primary goals of educational psychology is to explore and define the fundamental aspects of teaching and learning. This includes examining the processes that impact both educators and students, such as cognitive development, motivation, and learning strategies.

By exploring educational psychology, educators gain insights into how students think, learn, and grow. This knowledge allows for a deeper understanding of how to design educational practices that support effective learning and promote overall student development.

2. Understanding the Nature of Teaching

- **Teaching is Multi-dimensional:** Teaching is not merely about delivering content; it involves understanding diverse aspects of learning, including cognitive, emotional, and social dimensions. Educational psychology helps teachers recognize that they must adapt

their teaching methods to cater to different learning styles, backgrounds, and abilities within a single classroom.

- **Teaching Involves Uncertainty:** Educational psychology acknowledges that teaching is unpredictable, as no two students learn or respond in exactly the same way. This field equips teachers with strategies to manage this uncertainty and adapt flexibly to various classroom situations, from unexpected disruptions to differences in student comprehension and engagement.
- **Teaching Involves Social and Ethical Matters:** Educators not only impart knowledge but also play a role in socializing students and addressing ethical considerations. Educational psychology highlights the importance of respecting diversity, maintaining fairness, and fostering inclusivity. It helps teachers become more sensitive to issues like equity, cultural differences, and ethical dilemmas that may arise in educational settings.
- **Teaching Involves a Diverse Mosaic of Students:** Each classroom contains a unique mix of students with varying backgrounds, abilities, and needs. Educational psychology provides frameworks and tools for teachers to address this diversity, from differentiated instruction to culturally responsive teaching, so that all students can thrive academically and socially.

3. Carrying Out Effective Teaching

- **Professional Knowledge and Skills:** To be effective, teachers must develop a robust knowledge base in both content and pedagogy. Educational psychology promotes a scientific understanding of how learning happens, how to manage classrooms effectively, and how to assess student progress accurately. Through this knowledge, teachers can select appropriate methods, tools, and strategies to support diverse learners.
- **Commitment:** Effective teaching requires a deep commitment to the profession and to students' success. Educational psychology emphasizes the role of teacher motivation, empathy, and dedication in creating positive learning experiences. Committed educators engage actively with their students, show patience and resilience, and continuously strive to meet the needs of each learner.
- **Professional Growth:** Continuous learning is crucial for teachers to stay updated on new research, methods, and tools in education. Educational psychology encourages teachers to engage in professional development, reflect on their teaching practices, and seek out new strategies that enhance learning outcomes. This focus on growth helps educators refine their skills over time and adapt to evolving educational needs and standards.

What Makes a Good Teacher?

1. Warmth, Enthusiasm, and Caring

- A good teacher is someone who genuinely cares about their students and is enthusiastic about teaching. Warmth, enthusiasm, and caring help create a positive and supportive learning environment where students feel valued, respected, and motivated to learn.
- Warmth and empathy encourage students to participate and feel comfortable sharing their ideas. When teachers show they care about students' well-being and progress, it

- builds trust, making students more receptive to learning and more willing to take risks in their education.
- Enthusiasm, in particular, is contagious; a passionate teacher can inspire students to take an interest in the subject and engage more deeply with the material. This enthusiasm also motivates students to explore topics further and see learning as enjoyable rather than just a requirement.

2. Knowledge of the Subject Matter

To teach effectively, teachers need a strong understanding of the subject they are teaching. This depth of knowledge allows them to answer students' questions, clarify complex topics, and provide real-world applications that make the material more relatable and easier to understand.

Subject expertise also enables teachers to design lessons that go beyond rote memorization, encouraging critical thinking and allowing students to explore topics in depth. A knowledgeable teacher can create engaging activities, use relevant examples, and connect new information to prior knowledge, making learning more meaningful for students.

3. Knowledge of How to Teach (Pedagogical Skills)

Pedagogy is the study of teaching and learning with applications to the instructional process.

Knowing the subject matter alone isn't enough; a good teacher also understands the principles and techniques of effective teaching. This includes using diverse instructional strategies, such as direct instruction, group work, and hands-on activities, which accommodate different learning styles and engage students actively.

Pedagogical skills also include classroom management, the ability to assess student understanding, and adapting instruction as needed. By employing a range of teaching methods, a teacher can ensure that students not only comprehend but retain and apply what they learn.

4. Ability to Transmit Information and Skills Effectively

A skilled teacher knows how to break down complex information into manageable parts, making it accessible and understandable for students of varying abilities. They use clear explanations, visual aids, examples, and analogies to help students grasp challenging concepts. Additionally, good teachers focus on teaching critical thinking and problem-solving skills, not just facts. They encourage students to question, analyze, and explore, guiding them toward independent learning and building skills that extend beyond the classroom.

5. Communication Skills

Communication is at the heart of effective teaching. A good teacher communicates clearly, listens to students' questions and concerns, and adapts their approach based on students' responses. Clear communication also involves giving constructive feedback, explaining expectations, and guiding students in a way that is both supportive and challenging.

Beyond verbal communication, effective teachers are attuned to nonverbal cues, such as body language and facial expressions, which help them gauge student engagement and understanding. This attentiveness allows teachers to adjust their methods in real-time to meet students' needs better.

A good teacher combines personal qualities, such as warmth and enthusiasm, with professional expertise in both their subject and pedagogy. They communicate effectively, care about students' success, and continuously refine their teaching skills to meet the diverse needs of their learners. By balancing these qualities, teachers foster an environment where students feel inspired, supported, and capable of reaching their potential.

Good Teaching: (An Art and a Science)

1. Teaching as an Art

- Teaching involves creativity, intuition, and personal expression, making it an art form. It encompasses beliefs, emotions, values, and flexibility, which allow teachers to connect with their students on a deeper level.
- **Beliefs:** A teacher's beliefs about education, learning, and the capabilities of their students shape how they teach. Positive beliefs foster a growth mindset in students and encourage them to embrace challenges.
- **Emotions:** Emotional intelligence plays a crucial role in teaching. Teachers who can read and respond to the emotional climate of their classroom can create supportive environments that enhance learning and foster student engagement.
- **Values:** The values that educators uphold influence their teaching philosophies and classroom practices. For example, values such as respect, inclusivity, and integrity guide interactions with students and help create a positive classroom culture.
- **Flexibility:** Good teachers must be adaptable, adjusting their approaches based on student needs, classroom dynamics, and unexpected challenges. This flexibility allows for a responsive teaching style that can accommodate diverse learners.

2. Teaching as a Science

Teaching also relies on a large set of research findings that guide effective methods and techniques. Educational psychology provides insights into how students learn, the impact of different teaching methods, and the best ways to assess student understanding.

Teachers benefit from being informed about evidence-based practices, which can enhance their effectiveness. This scientific approach enables educators to analyze data, evaluate outcomes, and make informed decisions that positively impact student learning.

Reflective Teaching

- **Introspective Orientation:** Reflective teachers regularly engage in self-assessment and introspection about their teaching practices. They examine their strengths and weaknesses and consider how these affect their students.
- **Open-minded but Questioning Attitude:** While reflective teachers are open to new ideas and educational theories, they also maintain a critical perspective. They question the applicability and relevance of these theories to their specific teaching context, seeking to understand what works best for their students.
- **Willingness to Take Responsibility:** Reflective educators recognize that their decisions and actions significantly influence student learning. They take responsibility for their choices, understanding that teaching is a continuous process of learning and adaptation.

Teaching as Decision Making

Teachers are constantly making decisions about instructional strategies, classroom management, and assessment methods. These decisions are informed by research, classroom observations, and the unique needs of their students.

Wise decision-making relies on a solid understanding of educational theories and research findings, allowing teachers to choose strategies that will effectively promote student learning and development.

The consequences of these decisions can have lasting impacts on students' academic performance, motivation, and long-term success. Therefore, teachers must consider the potential outcomes of their choices carefully.

Education and Learning

Learning is a critical component of the educational process, serving to give broader value and meaning to a learner's life. Educators aim not only to impart knowledge but also to foster critical thinking, creativity, and personal growth.

Reflective teaching emphasizes the need for continuous personal reflection, allowing educators to examine their values, beliefs, and assumptions. This reflection enables teachers to understand how their personal and cultural backgrounds influence their teaching practices.

Teachers who become aware of their implicit educational theories can better connect their practices with their beliefs and the needs of students they teach. This alignment enhances their effectiveness and contributes to a more meaningful educational experience for their learners.

Good teaching is a dynamic blend of art and science, where creativity and emotional intelligence meet research-based practices and informed decision-making. Reflective teachers continuously evaluate their approaches, understand the impact of their decisions, and adapt to meet the diverse needs of their students. Ultimately, effective education not only imparts knowledge but also enriches students' lives, fostering critical thinking and personal growth.

Research in Educational Psychology and Its Influence on Teaching Practices

Teachers can implement effective approaches to improve student outcomes by using educational psychology's insights into how students develop their skills. These are important strategies that educators can use to create a positive learning environment, based on study findings.

1. Use Advanced Students to Tutor less Advanced Students

Peer tutoring, where advanced students help less advanced peers, is a research-supported method to enhance understanding for both the tutor and the learner. Peer teaching can reinforce the tutor's own knowledge and provides the learner with a relatable perspective, often increasing engagement and comprehension.

2. Give Positive Reinforcement and Corrective Feedback

Positive reinforcement and constructive feedback are essential for student motivation and improvement. Reinforcement encourages desired behaviors and achievements, while corrective feedback helps students recognize and correct errors in their understanding.

3. Communicate Expectations Clearly

Setting clear, achievable expectations gives students direction and helps them understand what is required for success. When students know what is expected, they are more likely to focus their efforts accordingly, leading to better academic outcomes.

4. Require Responses to Higher-Order Questions

Asking higher-order questions (e.g., “Why?” and “How?” questions) prompts critical thinking and deeper engagement with the material. This approach encourages analytical and reflective thinking, promoting better understanding and long-term retention of content.

5. Provide Cues for Upcoming Tasks

Giving students hints or previews of upcoming topics and tasks prepares them to engage with new material. Cues allow students to organize their thoughts in advance, making it easier to process and integrate new information during learning activities.

6. Teach Self-Monitoring and Improvement of Learning Efforts

Teaching students to monitor their own progress encourages self-regulation and autonomous learning. Self-monitoring leads to greater awareness of strengths and weaknesses, helping students take active steps to improve their learning strategies and performance.

7. Identify and Address Student Misconceptions

Recognizing common misconceptions allows teachers to address incorrect assumptions before they become ingrained. Correcting misunderstandings early helps ensure a solid foundation, which is crucial for building complex knowledge over time.

8. Create Customized Learning Situations

Allowing students to personalize information and problem-solving tasks promotes relevance and ownership in their learning. Customization enables students to connect new information with their existing knowledge, improving engagement and retention.

9. Accept Responsibility for Student Outcomes

Teachers who take accountability for student learning outcomes are more likely to adjust their methods to meet individual needs. This mindset leads to a more responsive and adaptive teaching approach, which can improve student success rates.

10. Teach Cooperation Skills

Encouraging students to work together on tasks helps develop collaborative skills that are beneficial in both academic and real-world contexts. Cooperative learning promotes social skills, empathy, and team problem-solving abilities, making students more effective in group settings.

These examples show how research in educational psychology follows up effective teaching strategies that enhance student learning and instructional efficiency. Teachers may create a learning environment that encourages development, motivation, and meaningful involvement by implementing these approaches.

Approaches to Educational Psychology

It is a number of changes and fashions in its brief history. An understanding of how theories emerge and connect or conflict with each other enables the teacher to evaluate their respective contributions to language teaching. Following are the approaches to educational psychology:

1. Cognitive Approach
2. Behavioral Approach

3. Constructivist Approach
4. Social Cognitive Approach
5. Humanistic Approach

1. Cognitive Approach

Information-Processing Theory

“Cognitive Theory of learning that describes the Processing, Storage, and Retrieval of Knowledge in the Mind.”

Cognitive approach deals with mental processes such as memory, perception, attention, and problem-solving.

Learning is seen as an active process of acquiring, processing, and storing information. This approach emphasizes understanding how students think, process information, and solve problems.

Strategies that enhance memory (e.g., mnemonics, visualization), encourage critical thinking, and improve problem-solving skills are central. Cognitive load theory, schema theory, and metacognition are important concepts here, helping teachers design lessons that align with how the brain processes information.

2. Behavioral Approach

The behavioral approach focuses on observable behaviors and how they are influenced by the environment. Learning is seen as a process of acquiring new behaviors through reinforcement and punishment.

Key Concepts:

- **Classical Conditioning** (e.g., Pavlov) – Learning through association.
- **Operant Conditioning** (e.g., Skinner) – Learning through reinforcement and punishment.

Teachers might use rewards to encourage good behavior or provide corrective feedback to reduce undesirable behaviors, like reinforcing students who answer questions correctly or give praise for effort.

3. Constructivist Approach

The constructivist approach, based on the works of Vygotsky and Piaget, holds that students construct knowledge through interaction with their environment and peers. Learning is viewed as an active, collaborative process.

Key Concepts:

- **Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)** (Vygotsky) – The range of tasks that a learner can perform with guidance.
- **Scaffolding** – Temporary support to help students reach higher levels of understanding.

Teachers create collaborative activities and provide support that encourages students to build upon their current understanding, like group discussions or hands-on projects.

4. Social Cognitive Approach

This approach, associated with Bandura, emphasizes the role of observational learning, imitation, and modeling in learning. It views learning as influenced by social interactions and self-efficacy (belief in one's ability to succeed).

Key Concepts:

- **Observational Learning** – Learning by watching others (models) and imitating behaviors.
- **Self-Efficacy** – Belief in one's own ability to succeed in specific situations.

Teachers model behaviors they wish to see in students, such as critical thinking or cooperation, and encourage students to set personal goals and self-reflect.

5. Humanistic Approach

Rooted in the theories of Maslow and Rogers, the humanistic approach focuses on the whole person and emphasizes motivation, self-actualization, and personal growth. It sees learning as a process of fulfilling one's potential.

Key Concepts:

- **Self-Actualization** (Maslow) – Achieving one's full potential.
- **Unconditional Positive Regard** (Rogers) – Accepting students for who they are without judgment.

Teachers support students' emotional well-being, encourage self-expression, and create a positive, supportive classroom climate where students feel valued.

Contribution of Educational Psychology

- **To understand individual differences:**

With the help of psychology teacher understand the individual's differences. Teacher faces a class of 30 to 50 students who have a different range of individual differences. Teacher with the knowledge of education psychology and individual differences may adjust his teaching to the needs and requirements of the class.

- **To understand effective teaching methods:**

Every day experience shows that lack of proper methods of teaching sometimes results in failure of communication in the classroom. The educational psychology gives us the knowledge of appropriate methods of teaching. It helps in developing new strategies of teaching.

- **Knowledge of mental health:**

Mental health of the student and teacher is very important for efficient learning. With the help of educational psychology, the teacher can understand the various factors, which are responsible for the mental health and maladjustment.

- **Curriculum construction:**

Psychological principles are also used in formulating curriculum for different stages.

- **Guidance for the education of exceptional children:**

Most important contribution of educational psychology is the provision and organization of the educational psychology is the provision and organization of the education for the education of sub normal children.

- **The Learner**

The subject-matter of educational psychology is knitted around the learner. Therefore, the need of knowing the learner and the techniques of knowing him well. The topics include – the innate abilities and capacities of the individuals, individual differences and their measurements, the overt, covert, conscious as well as unconscious behavior of the learner, the characteristics of his growth and development and each stage beginning from childhood to adulthood.

- **The Learning Experiences**

Educational Psychology helps in deciding what learning experiences are desirable, at what stage of the growth and development of the learner, so that these experiences can be acquired with a greater ease and satisfaction.

- **Learning process**

After knowing the learner and deciding what learning experiences are to be provided, Educational Psychology moves on to the laws, principles and theories of learning. Other items in the learning process are remembering and forgetting, perceiving, concept formation, thinking and reasoning, problem solving, transfer of learning, ways and means of effective learning etc.

- **Learning Situation or Environment**

Deal with the environmental factors and learning situations which come midway between the learner and the teacher. Topics like classroom climate and group dynamics, techniques and aids that facilitate learning and evaluation, techniques and practices, guidance and counseling etc. For the smooth functioning of the teaching-learning process.

- **Evaluation of learning process**

Some forms of evaluation inevitable in teaching. Also in all fields of activity when judgments used to be made, evaluation plays an important role. Even when we want to cross a road we make a judgment whether it is safe to cross the road. Effectiveness of learning process always depends on the evaluation as it gives the knowledge of result which helps the learner as well as the teacher to modify or correct oneself. Educational psychology guides are by explaining the different methods of assessment contributing to the effectiveness of learning process. Knowing the learner, acquiring the essential skill in teaching and evaluation are the focal points in the study of educational psychology.

- **Personality and adjustment**

Education has been defined as the all-round development of the personality of an individual. If educational has to fulfill this function all instructional programs have to be based on the principles governing the nature and development of personality.

- **Guidance and Counseling**

Education is nothing by providing guidance and counseling required for the proper development of the child. This is very true, especially in the light of the extremely complex and problematic situation one has to face in the fast growing world. Educational psychology has come to the rescue by developing principles and practical measures helpful for providing effective guidance and counseling.

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