

Educational Psychology

Educational Psychology is a combination of two words education and psychology. Lets first discuss psychology in detail.

Psychology

There are many false notions about psychology and psychologists. Psychology is not mind reading and psychologists are not gifted with mystic powers; they are not demi-gods with spiritual powers. They cannot size up people effortlessly; they cannot assess the character, the personality of the individual briefly. There are many self-styled psychologists who claim to study personality and thoughts of an individual by his physical features, his handwriting by the way he is seated, by the style of his walking. They are psycho-quacks. Psychology is a science and psychologist are a scientist. Science is a body of verifiable knowledge based on observation and experimentation. Scientists do not take things for granted; they observe, investigate and find truth by themselves. Science begins with observation. The fundamental principle of science is to seek facts rather than depend upon authority or sheer speculation. Scientist begins with questions, looks for relevant data and observes under controlled conditions. He is not trying to prove something; he is testing something; he is impartial and objective; he is intellectually honest and open-minded. Psychology was once a branch of philosophy. It was defined as a study of soul; then as a study of mind (mental philosophy) and later as a study of consciousness and now as a study of behaviour.

Domains of Behaviour:

Psychologists identify three domains of behaviour: - Cognitive domain (thinking - intellectual activities) - Affective domain (feelings, emotions, attitudes and the like) - Psychomotor domain (acting or doing, motor activities, - previously called conative domain)

Educational Psychology: Educational psychology is not merely the application of principles of psychology to educational situations but something more than that. It is the study of the psychological aspects of educational situations. The objective of educational psychology is to help teachers develop an understanding of educational process especially classroom learning.

Educational psychology is concerned with three focal areas. the learner, the learning process and the learning situation.

- The Learner: Teachers must understand the psychology of the learner – the various psychological forces which operate in his field – interests, attitudes, feelings, sentiments emotions, needs, urges and the like.
- The Learning Process: It focusses on what happens to the individual when he learns, why he learns what the teacher wants him to learn, why he does not learn what the teacher wants him to learn. It attempts to pinpoint specific behaviours of learning.
- The Learning Situation: It is concerned with those factors or conditions that influence the learner and the learning process.

Objectives of educational psychology: - Class room climate conducive to effective learning. Can we identify and introduce factors which facilitate learning? Can we identify and remove factors which affect learning? Good teaching is much more than understanding these areas. But understanding is a basic requirement.

The specific objectives of educational psychology are: -

1. To develop a scientific attitude in the teacher towards educational problems.
2. To help the teacher set up appropriate educational situations so that changes in behaviour of the learners can be brought about towards desirable goals.
3. To help the teacher in treating his students with sympathy and empathy. - To help the teacher organize the academic content to be taught.
4. To help the teacher realize that the social relationships are of utmost importance in the educational process.
5. To help the teacher develop a problem-solving research attitude.
6. To help the teacher in providing guidance and counselling to his students.
7. To help the educational administrators organize and administer the institutions.
8. To provide the teacher with effective methods of teaching.

The importance of educational psychology

Educational psychology is a vital part of the learning process, especially in this era. It is important for both educators and students. Let's look at some of the benefits educational psychology has on educators.

- It helps the teacher to get to know his potential to teach and the abilities of the learners.
- It assists the teacher in the identifying the learning process.
- It helps the teacher to assess each student and to know where he stands and how he has grown.
- It helps the teacher to adjust his method of learning to the demand of the learner.
- It helps the teacher to solve the learning problems of each student.
- It helps the teacher to motivate the student to learn and to increase his ability in memorising.
- It helps to teacher to identify the differences each student has according to his or her own limits.
- It helps the teacher to channel the students' abilities in the right direction.

Apart from the importance educational psychology has on teachers, there are also many benefits it has on education itself. Let's look at some of these advantages.

- As a learner, it enables him to get to know about himself and identify his behaviour.
- It facilitates the learning process by determining factors of the classroom environment and how discipline should be maintained.

- It helps curriculum generators to identify what needs to be added to the curriculum to support the teachers and students with the learning process to transfer to the next generation.
- It helps to identify how to evaluate students in order to test to what extent the information and concepts taught have been transferred.

All these benefits only tell you how important educational psychology is. This means that it is the right time for you to consider following one of the psychology courses online so that you get to master the above techniques.

Scope of Psychology in Education

The scope of educational psychology is gaining greater importance in the educational field. Thus, more students are aiming to pursue this field of study. This makes it more important for aspirants as well as others to understand the scope of educational psychology. The following factors indicate the scope of educational psychology: -

1. Human Behaviour

Psychology in education involves the study of human behavior in educational situations. We all understand that psychology is the study of behavior. Education, on the other hand, deals with the modification of behavior. Hence, we can say that educational psychology penetrates the whole education sector.

2. Growth and Development

How does a child pass through various stages of growth? This is studied by educational psychologists. The characteristics of each stage of growth are closely watched and studied. This helps in making reports and an easy diagnosis of a few illnesses/ diseases.

3. Heredity and Environment

Heredity can affect a lot of things in a child, including the development and growth of the brain to learn and grasp new things. Along with this, the environment a child grows up in also plays a major part. Educational psychologists determine to what extent heredity and environment contribute toward the growth of the individual and how this knowledge can be used for bringing about the optimum development of the child.

4. Learning process

Learning is a major phenomenon in education. Educational psychologists study the law of learning. They study how learning as a process can take place effectively and economically. Psychologists in education understand how a student reacts to learning in different situations

5. Personality

The scope of psychology in education extends to the personality of the student. It deals with the nature and development of an individual in an educational setup. Education has been described as an all-around development of the personality of a person.

6. Intelligence

A teacher or a tutor needs to understand the nature of the study. The scope of Psychology in education includes the study of the nature of intelligence as well as its measurement.

7. Individual Difference

Everyone is different from the other. This is a fundamental fact of human life. An education psychologist studies the nature of intelligence as well as its measurement. This is a very important scope of psychology in education.

8. Guidance and Counselling

When you use the word education, it means guiding a growing child. Thus, guidance forms an important scope of psychology in education. This is one of the most important fields of study in the subject. American Psychology Association has given five areas of guidance and counselling.

- Human growth and development, including the effect of heredity and environment on various aspects of individual.
- The nature of the learning process, factors influencing the learning process
- It includes many sub-topics, such as the mental health of the students and teachers' character.
- Measurement and evaluation, statistics
- Techniques and methods of Educational Psychology

We can conclude by saying that educational psychology is a narrower branch of psychology. Education is one of the primary needs of modern man. Psychology has made its way into every aspect of modern education to make it more systematic, scientific, useful, authentic, objective, and numerical. Strong methods have been applied at present for the understanding of the human

mind and behaviour. It helped in working out the educational plan and program for an effective solution to the problems.

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