

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Education plays a vital role in human behavior it is imperative (essential) to study the mode of such role the education plays. The desirable changes in behavior that represent basic features of education are:

Knowledge: it is the intimate acquaintance with fact

Skill: The ability to do a particular thing

Attitude: the **positive** or **negative** feeling one has towards any **psychological object**

Educational Psychology

Educational psychology is the systematic study of development of individual within the educational setting. Human behaviour can be understood, predicted, and directed towards desired goals by applying the principles of educational psychology. Educational psychology studies the individual through the life stages as he acquires new knowledge. As educational psychology is concerned with educational process from birth to death of an individual. Its scope is very wide concerned in the areas of the learner's developmental characteristics, individual differences, intelligence, personality and mental health. Increasing use of psychology is noticed in various spheres of life and extension education is no exception to it. In extension education, the development workers deal with rural people to teach the rural people about innovations to be adopted in their farm, home and village. In as much as the extension worker is involved in educating rural people most of the concepts discussed in this chapter are applicable to extension educational psychology. The only difference between them is that the learners are children in the subject of educational psychology and the learners are rural adults in extension educational psychology. The main aim of extension education is utilising the research findings in solving the problems of rural people and they must attain desirable changes in the values and attitudes. Bringing this change is one of the major concerns of extension educational psychology. Thus, the main job of the extension worker is to teach the rural people. The learning experience is given in the areas in which rural people are interested. Thus, one could see the importance of educational psychology in extension education.

It deals with the behaviour of human beings in educational situations. This means that it is concerned with the study of human behaviour or the human personality, its growth, development and guidance under the social process of education. It is a branch of general

psychology which deals with various aspects of psychological factors affecting education, teaching and learning processes. It describes and explains the learning experiences of an individual from birth through old age. Its subject matter is concerned with the conditions that affect learning. Educational psychology can be regarded as an applied science in that it seeks to explain learning according to scientifically determined principles and facts concerning human behaviour.

Definitions of Educational Psychology:

Educational Psychology is the branch of psychology 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**

Psychology

Father of Psychology is **Sigmund Freud**. The term psychology was derived from Greek; '*psyche*' meaning is soul or Atman '*logus*' means Science. Hence about 2500 years back it was referred to a '*science of soul*'. In olden days, it was believed that soul was responsible for various activities of man such as thinking, imagining, reasoning etc. In the Middle Ages psychology became a '*science of mind*'. Then after sometime, it became the '*science of conscience*'. This definition was criticised from '*abnormal psychology*' which brought the study of unconscious part of the mind. Then in 20th century psychology assumed scientific look and it became the '*science of mental behaviour*'. By observing one's behaviour we can have knowledge of one's conscious and unconscious minds.

Definitions of Psychology:

Psychology is the scientific study of the **behavior** of an individual – **Daniel**

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

Psychology is a science of human behavior

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

Psychology is the science of behavior and adjustment

Importance of Psychology: (Importance of Psychology in Agril. Extension)

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

1. The **abilities** of individual
2. The **needs** of individual and techniques to be employed to **motivate** them
3. The **hereditary** and **environmental** factors that affect the behavior
4. The levels of **achievement motivation** of the individuals
5. The factors that result in individual, intellectual **differences** and reasons for people becoming **problem men**
6. The factors that lead to **differential perceptions**
7. The causes of **retarded** learning
8. The causes of **emotions** and **frustration** in human beings
9. The causes of **forgetting** and how to improve **memory**
10. The levels of knowledge, attitudes possessed by the individuals
11. The different **psychological traits** possessed by individuals. By the application of different tests and help in evaluation of the behaviour of the individual

Definition of Social Psychology:

Social psychology is defined as the branch of knowledge which studies the relationships arising out of the interaction of individuals with each other in social situations. In brief it deals with thinking, feeling, and acting of an individual in society.

Social psychology, as discussed earlier, attempts to determine the character of social behaviour. Social behaviour involves one of the four following basic reactions.

- i. When one individual meets another individual there is reaction. Each individual affects the other individual with whom he comes into contact and is in turn affected by them.
- ii. Individual may be reacting to group (e.g) extension worker meeting a group of farmers.
- iii. As a counterpart of the above situation there will be reaction of a group of individuals to a single individual (e.g) group meeting its leader.
- iv. There is a reaction of one group of individuals to another group of individuals.

Social psychology studies the characteristics of all these four forms of social behavior. It must, however, be borne in mind that social psychology studies the individual and not the group itself. Social psychology studies the individual in relation to his fellow-men.

Importance of Educational Psychology in Agricultural Extension

The importance of educational psychology in agricultural extension is immense as both disciplines deal with human behaviour in educational environment. Following are the some of the reasons which explain the importance of educational psychology in agricultural extension.

- Educational psychology helps the extension agent to know the learner, his interest, attitudes, aptitude, level of aspiration, intelligence, interests, individual behaviour in group, etc. which plays a major role in one's learning.
- Its main concern is on teaching and learning. This helps in formulating training programmes for improving the knowledge and skill of extension agent and farmers. It also helps in selection of teaching methods and aids for organising effective learning situations and suggests technique of learning as well as teaching.
- It helps in imparting better education by organising the subject matter of learning experience, preparation of different text books, development of assessment patterns, etc for heterogeneous learners.
- Educational psychology helps in acquainting learner with the mechanism of heredity and environment.
- It also deals with the problem-solving which is very important for extension agent to develop problem-solving skills amongst farmers.
- It helps extension agent to find causes of prejudices, the habit of sticking to old practices of farming and ways of doing things, the doubts and lack of confidence and factors affecting motivation.
- It also helps them to know the emotions and feelings of farmers, how farmers learn new practices.