

Educational Psychology for Enhancing Communication Skills



English Language Teaching

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ABSTRACT

Psychology is defined as the scientific study of human and animal behavior. It has been found that Psychology impacts every facet of human life. Considerable Psychological research work has been done and is still in progress on various areas of the learning process and these principles are amenable for adaptive application in diverse areas related to human activity. Psychology has several sub-branches which specialize in different areas of human Endeavour. One such branch is Educational Psychology.

INTRODUCTION

Education is the process of moulding and shaping the behavior of students, right from the primary to college levels. Educational psychology helps the trainer to understand the development of his/her pupils, the range and limits of their capacities, the process by which they learn and their social relationships. In this way, the work of Educational Psychologists resembles that of an Engineer who is a technical expert. The Engineer supplies all the knowledge and skill essential for the satisfactory completion of a job, say, construction of a bridge. Likewise, the Educational psychologist is able to provide the information, principles and techniques essential for the following aspects of a student.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

In the words of John Dewey, Educational Philosophy is, "A theory of education in the most general phase." It is a normative science which tries to answer "what ought to be" or in other words, the 'why' and 'what' of education.

THE NATURE OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Educational Psychology is an applied branch of Psychology. Through the application of psychological principles and techniques, it tries to study the behavior and experiences of students. While psychology deals with human beings in all walks of life, Educational Psychology deals with behavior and experiences of students in an educational environment. It gives necessary knowledge and skills for providing education to students in a satisfactory way. It is not a normative science and also not concerned with the values of Education and does not concern itself with 'what ought to be.' It is an applied positive science. It employs the scientific method and adopts a scientific approach to the study of behavior in an educational environment.

SCOPE OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Teaching-Learning Situation is studied as the Learner (Student), the Learning Experiences, the Learning Process, the Learning Situations or Environment, the teacher, the topic of Educational Psychology revolves around the five pivots mentioned above.

The Learner

The Learner is the central pivot of the process. The innate abilities and capacities of the student, individual differences and their measurement, the overt, covert, conscious, and unconscious behavior of the Learner and his growth and development at each stage, beginning from childhood to adulthood.

Learning Experiences

Educational Psychology does not specify what is to be taught but has the responsibility of suggesting the techniques of acquiring the learning experiences. It helps in deciding what learning experiences are desirable and at what stage of the growth and development of the learner so that these experiences can be acquired with greater ease and satisfaction.

The Learning Process

Educational Psychology deals with the nature of learning and

contains topics such as laws, principles and theories of learning, Remembering and Forgetting, Perceiving, Concept formation, Thinking and reasoning process, Problem Solving, transfer of training, ways and means of effective learning etc.

Learning Situation and Environment

Both individual teaching as well as a group process are very much feasible for a properly trained Educational Psychologist.

THE TRAINER

A good Trainer (Teacher) should know and remember the following Psychological principles. The Teacher should be a model to the students in all respects. The Trainer should know the home-background and the socio-economic status of the student. The Trainer must know the level of knowledge of the students, in particular, on the subject being taught. The Trainer should be thorough in the subject matter being taught. The methodology of teaching should be, from easy to difficult, simple to complex, and from concrete to abstract. The teaching method should be in tune with the grasping capacity of the students. The Trainer should be able to assess the ability, skill, and personality of the student. The Trainer should know how to conduct examination effectively and objectively. The Trainer should know how to evaluate the students in His/ Her subject. The Trainer should always be a student and should be in touch with the current status of the subject. The teacher should be able to frame the syllabus and construct the related curriculum. The Trainer should be able to develop a "Question Bank" on the relevant subject. The Trainer should know how to maintain discipline by reward and punishment at the right time and place. The Trainer should be a friend, Philosopher, and Guide to the students. The Trainer should possess the essential qualities like Sincerity, Honesty, Loyalty to one's profession, Sympathy, Interest in the Students progress and welfare, Ability to motivate learning, Stimulation of thought, Adaptability and consideration for others, Cheerfulness, Enthusiasm and Self Control. In short, the Teacher is an embodiment of good qualities. The Personality of a Teacher is exhibited in the behavior of the Students.

THE TEACHING - LEARNING PROCESS

The Teaching Process

There are several methods of Teaching. Some of these are: The Lecture Method, The Demonstration Method, Question - Answer Method, Supervised Study Method and Project Method. The principles for these methods have been devised by Psychologists. Some methods are better than others Eg: The Demonstration method is better than the Lecture Method. These methods must be supported by visual aids like pictures, charts, Film strips, Class - Room Drama. These again are explained through Psychological principles.

The Learning Process

Learning is only possible through sensory organs which are the gateways of knowledge. Learning by doing is the most effective method of learning because it involves the function of three sensory organs. In the learning process, if more numbers of sensory organs are used, there would be more effective learning. So the

student should be encouraged to utilize more sensory organs in learning. Eg: We Learn, 1.0% through Taste,2.5% through Touch,3.5% through Smell,11.0% through Hearing, and 83.6% through Sight.

HOW TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATION SKILLS USING EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY PRINCIPLES

The Learning process will be faster if the Learning Material is useful and meaningful to the student. Therefore, the subject matter is to be divided into meaningful segments of information. Then the learner can assimilate easily. These are the outcome of Psychological principles. The effectiveness of learning can be measured through tests. Here, Teaching and Testing must go hand in hand.

Learning skills of slow learners

There are some students who are affected by learning difficulties due to psychological disorders, such as, Autism, Developmental Disability, and Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder. There is also a likelihood of students who happen to be introverted. Such students do not express their problems or difficulties due to shyness. These disorders can be treated through psychological intervention like Counseling and Psychotherapy. These techniques are quite effective in the form of Talk Therapy and once the student has overcome the disorder / condition, they would be able to understand the lessons much better.

THE TESTING PROCESS

There are many of tests like IQ Test, Personality Test, Attitude Test, and Aptitude Test, which can clearly point to the level of ability of the student in these areas. Based on the test results suitable remediation methods as described in Para 8.2 can be adopted to speed up the learning ability of such students.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be said that Educational Psychology provides important techniques that can benefit student's right from school to college levels to acquire better understanding and improve their communication skills.

REFERENCE

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