

PSYCHOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION

Relationship between Education and Psychology:

- Psychology occupies a prominent place in the educational theory of today. Psychology deals with facts as they are the behaviour as it is. Its business is not to assess the moral worth of behaviour. Education is concerned with aims, ideals, standards, and values, and these in them are beyond the province of pure psychology.
- Although Psychology cannot formulate the aim of education, it tells us at once whether an aim is in vain or whether it is possible to achieve. An educator may formulate the aim of annihilating the instinct of self-assertion in his pupil, but psychology would tell him that he was attempting the impossible. Thus the educationists like T. Percy Nunn could propose only education according to nature. James Drever points out that without the aid of psychology, the educator cannot know whether he succeeds in his aim or not.
- Adams says that as the task of the teacher is to influence learners, the study of psychology will enable the teacher to understand him/herself and understand the innate endowment of the child, of the laws of his development, the ever-growing complexity of the mind, the effect of environment and development of personality.
- Psychology seeks to understand and explain behaviour in terms of mental and bodily activities, its chief problem is how and why we behave, how we think, know, feel and act and why we think, know, feel and act in the way we do. Education tries to help young people to grow and develop, to acquire knowledge and skills and to learn to relate well with the things and people around. The science of psychology

must be basic to such an attempt as it explains how young people grow, what cognitive capacities develop to what extent at different stages of life.

- Education on the other hand has aims, purposes and goals which are determined by factors outside the field of psychology. But psychology gives devices, means, efforts and programmes to achieve these goals.

Definition of Educational Psychology:

Educational psychology is the study of experiences and behaviour of the learner in relation to educational environment. It is not only concerned with learned forms of behaviour but also with the non-learned types of behaviour such as, behaviour resulting from the natural maturational processes.

- Skinner (1938): “Educational psychology is the branch of psychology which deals with teaching and learning”.
- Anderson (1949): Educational psychology is a subject to be studied, an area or field of knowledge, a set of applications of laws and principles from a field of knowledge to a social process, a set of tools and techniques, and a field of research.
- Crow and Crow (1973): “Educational psychology describes and explains the learning experiences of an individual from birth through old age”.
- Woolfolk, A.E. (1990): “Educational psychology is a discipline concerned with understanding and improving the teaching and learning processes; it uses the theories and methods of psychology as well as its own unique theories and methods”.
- Therefore, Educational psychology is a branch of applied psychology which deals with teaching and learning by incorporating psychological principles.

Nature of Educational Psychology:

The nature of educational psychology is as follows:

- Educational psychology is a science following the scientific approach. It has developed the procedures to identify the issues, collect the data, process the data and predict the behaviour in a scientific way.
- Educational psychology adopts the method of systematic inquiry and scientific approach to study behaviour.
- Educational psychology is not a perfect science but, it is a positive science.
- Educational psychology is the research based study to study systematically the behavioural patterns of the individuals in the educational climate.
- Educational psychology is an applied psychology that uses the psychological principles and techniques for the development of educational practices.
- Educational psychology helps the teachers to understand themselves and learners. The learning difficulties, behavioural deviations, adjustment problems etc. are dealt by the teachers with the help of educational psychology.
- It brings out appropriate instructional strategies, and systematic learning process.

Scope of Educational Psychology:

The scope of educational psychology means that the teaching-learning process and educational environment are viewed in psychological perspective. The scope of educational psychology as follows:

1. The learner
2. The learning process

3. Learning experience
4. Learning environment
5. Teacher and teaching

Significance of Educational Psychology to the Teacher:

Educational psychology helps the teacher in many ways as follows:

- To understand the learner
- To understand the problems of children
- To understand the learning process
- To understand the developmental characteristics
- To select methods of teaching
- To improve quality of teaching
- To create conducive learning environment
- To make socialization in classroom
- To maintain discipline
- To identify the special needs children
- To enable teachers for curriculum development
- To know the teacher him/herself
- To render guidance service
- To evaluate the performance
- To conduct the research