

## Educational Psychology and its Importance in Agricultural Extension

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### SUMMARY

The article discusses the history of psychology, its evolution into the study of mental behavior, and its differentiation from educational psychology. It explains that while general psychology deals with human behavior and experience in a general way, educational psychology focuses specifically on behavior and experiences related to education. The article further explores the three main areas of educational psychology: the learner, the learning process, and the learning situation. It emphasizes the importance of educational psychology in agricultural extension, particularly in understanding learners, formulating training programs, selecting teaching methods, and improving education. The article concludes by discussing how educational psychology helps extension workers develop problem-solving skills and understand the emotions and feelings of farmers in order to improve agricultural practices.

### INTRODUCTION

*“Learning should be a joy and full of excitement. It is life's greatest adventure; it is an illustrated excursion into the minds of the noble and the learned.”*

*✍️ Taylor Caldwell*

The term psychology was derived from Greek; 'psyche' meaning is soul or Atman 'logus' means Science. About 2500 years back it was referred to a 'science of soul'. In the Middle Ages psychology became a 'science of mind'. Then after sometime, it became the 'science of conscience'. In 20<sup>th</sup> century psychology assumed scientific look and it became the 'science of mental behaviour'. Behaviour is our response to a situation with which we are confronted. Psychology defined as a study of soul, after some time it defined as study of mind. Study of mind is a mental philosophy. Later as a study of consciousness and now as a study of behaviour.

### General Psychology and Educational Psychology

Sometimes, Educational Psychology is confused with General Psychology. Though there is much that is common to both, their objectives are very different from one another. The field of General Psychology is wider. It deals with every kind of human behaviour and with every kind of problem related to life. All forms of life processes, adjustments, activities and experiences of the organism may become the scope of General Psychology. General Psychology deals with, and explains and interprets the facts of human behaviour and experience in a general way.

Educational Psychology deals with the behaviour and experiences which are related to education only. It selects from the whole field of General Psychology those facts and principles that are of specific significance to learning and teaching. Educational Psychology is just a specialized branch of General Psychology and is a science which studies actual events in a scientific way. It studies reasons for the differences in ability to learn quickly or slowly, for failure or success. 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 extension workers develop an understanding of educational process.

### Educational psychology is concerned with three important areas

- The learner
- The learning processes
- The learning situation.

**The Learner:**

Teachers must have an understanding of 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 behaviour of learning.

**The Learning Situation:**

It is concerned with those factors or conditions that influence the learner and the learning process – class room climate conducive to effective learning.

Good teaching is much more than understanding these areas. But understanding is a basic requirement.

**Objectives of Educational psychology**

The specific objectives of educational psychology are:

- To develop a scientific attitude in the teacher towards educational problems.
- To help the teacher set up appropriate educational situations so that changes in behaviour of the learners can be brought about towards desirable goals.

**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. Some of the reasons which explain the importance of educational psychology in agricultural extension are

- 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 organizing effective learning situations and suggests technique of learning as well as teaching.
- It helps in imparting better education by organizing 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 or change agent to develop problem-solving skills amongst farmers.
- It also helps them to know the emotions and feelings of farmers, how farmers learn new farm practices
- Agricultural extension education is informal education for rural people with the goal of developing a desirable rural community. It investigates rural people's attitudes and behaviors in order to alter or improve their attitudes and behaviors.
- Education Dimension of agriculture extension education involves the change agent i.e., extension worker attempting to work on the farmer's psychology using effective teaching methods to improve the knowledge and develop the skill of the farmer as he acquires knowledge on improved farm practices to enhance production and marketing activities (Williams, et al 1981).
- Educational Psychology studies limitations and qualities of individual's Psychical capacity, intelligence, aptitude, interests etc. Which play a major role in one's learning.
- Educational psychology helps in improving teaching and learning.
- Educational psychology to have better education through evolution of syllabus for different levels of education.
- Attempts to discover the source of knowledge, belief, customs and to trace the development thinking and rearing to find the kind of environmental stimulation that produces certain type of activity.
- Will help extension workers to find causes for prejudices the habit of sticking to old farm practices and ways of doing things, the doubts and lack of confidence and factors affecting motivation.

- Helps the Extension workers to know the emotion and feeling of farmers, how villages of farmers learn new practices and what type of approaches to be adopted and teaching methods to be research.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, educational psychology is a specialized branch of general psychology that deals specifically with the behavior and experiences related to education. Its objectives are to develop a scientific attitude towards educational problems, to help set up appropriate educational situations that bring about changes in learners' behavior towards desirable goals, and to improve teaching and learning through the study of the learner, the learning process, and the learning situation. The importance of educational psychology in agricultural extension is immense, as it helps the extension worker to understand the learners, select appropriate teaching methods and aids, and organize effective learning situations. Ultimately, educational psychology helps to improve the knowledge and skills of extension workers and farmers, leading to better agricultural practices and a more desirable rural community.

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