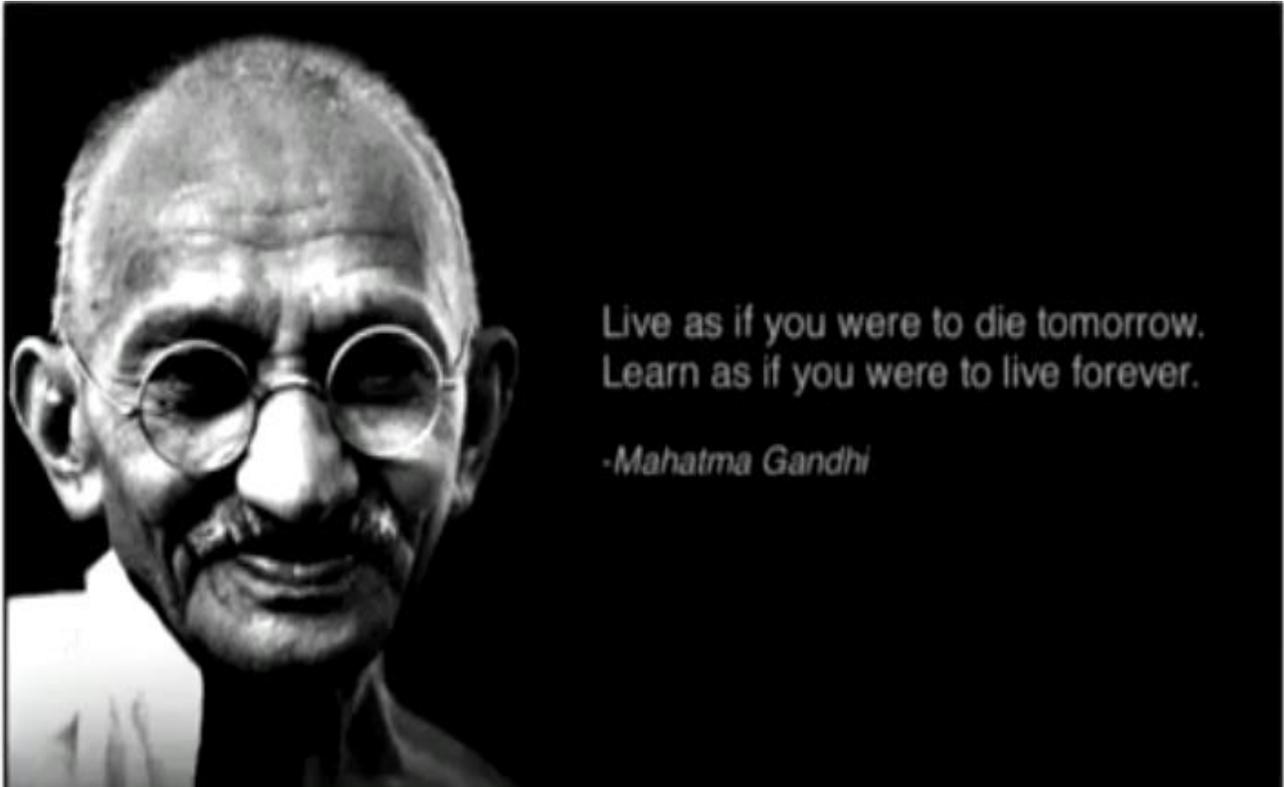


RESEARCH METHODOLOGY/TEACHING APTITUDE (M-8)

Topic 2: **Learner's characteristics**



Teaching Aptitude Learner's Characteristics

A Learner is someone who is consistently learning. We all are the learner at some or the other time in our daily life. To be precise, a learner at a particular time is that person who is learning about a particular subject.

For a decision maker, it is important to know the learner's characteristics. It is essential to know what factors affect their learning.

Learning can be described that the process of acquiring new or modifying existing knowledge, skill values, behaviour and preferences.

Learning is strongly based on the intellectual level, cognitive ability, perception, personality and attitude of a learner. As individual many factors affect the learning of a person. They are bound to get influenced by the social arena, cultural habits, and willingness of a person to adopt change.

No successful outcome strategy can be expected without analyzing learner characteristics. Learner characteristics can be identified by collecting the information based on their cognitive, physiological, affective and social characteristics. Different methods are used to collect information about learners such as surveys, interviews, observation, current knowledge/ skill levels and performance result.

Learner's characteristics are many such as personal, academic, social/emotional and/or cognitive in nature.

Personal characteristics can be defined as demographic information about the learner such as age, gender, cultural background, maturation, language, social economic status and specific needs of a learner group such as particular skills and disabilities for and/or impairments to learning.

Academics characteristics of respondents including the education type, education level, and knowledge. The learner has social/emotional characteristics.

Cognitive characteristics of learner can be described such as memory, mental pressure, solve problems, intellectual skill, remembers, organizes and store information in the brain.

Definitions of Learning

Gardener Murphy: “The term learning covers every modification in behaviour to meet environmental requirements.”

Henry P. Smith: “Learning is the acquisition of new behaviour or the strengthening or weakening of old behaviour as the result of experience.”

Learning means a permanent change in the behaviour of the learner through experience, instructions, and study. It is very difficult to measure the learning but the result of learning can be measured.

Learner characteristics can be described as measuring the characteristics of learners such as behavioural nature, attitudes and psychological towards everything related to learning.

In learner characteristics aptitude is defined according to Cronbach and Snow as “any characteristic of a person that forecasts his probability of success under a given treatment” or “whatever makes a person ready to learn rapidly in a particular situation (or, more generally, to make effective use of a particular environment)” Various components were described in learner characteristics such as gender, attitude, motivation, learner style and cultural background.

Learners characteristics-

During a learning phase, a learner faces different issues such as doubts, fear of exam, exam pattern, study material and syllabus etc. These problems can be tackled through hard work, consistent efforts and more practice.

There are the few characteristics of learners given below-

Good learners are curious

A learner is never satisfied. They are always hungry for information, love the discovery and try to find out the solution to problems. Learner collects the information about best study material and latest information which was provided by UGC.

Carefully understanding

A good learner possesses the attribute of careful understanding. Most of the knowledge can be gained with the hard work and efforts. A learner should try to understand the subject matter carefully. An effective learner always tries to interpret the stimulus, combine and differentiate them and give them some meaning.

Learner's characteristics are divided into following categories which are explained as follows:

Social and Personal quality-

A learner who has personal quality understands subject matter easily and solves the problems very fast. Different learners have different personal and social cognitive power. A Learner who belongs to the different social structure may face the problem during the study at other place but a good learner easily adapts and adjust environment of the class.

Growth and development-

Learner's characteristics are subject to his mental & intellectual growth and development. Education and training are helpful to positive growth and development. A good educationist takes the responsibility to himself of identifying the characteristics of the learner and developing skills into him/her.

Willingness to learn-

A Learner is always willing to learn and open for information. He has a broad mental space and accepts the changes consistently. Inquisitive nature of learner develops an urge in them for acquiring more and more knowledge from their parents, siblings, neighbours, relatives, teachers, society and many more.

Interests and attitude of learner

There is a difference between the interest and the attitude of learner. A teacher always plays an important role to assess the learners for their interest and aptitude so that they can guide according to their aptitude.

Easily Adjustment to Change-

Although, it is not possible to every learner to adjust in every situation as a different learner has different characteristics of adjustment. Some learner easily adapts classroom environment and some feel uncomfortable in the class environment. So, a good learner should adjust according to the situation.

Internal Motivation-

Motivation is an important factor for a learner to achieve their goals. Learners differ in their capacity of motivation. Some learners are easily motivated while some feel hesitation for a long time before they get motivated by their instructors.

Social-cultural background

Learners come from different culture, area and family background. These learners perform in a homogenous group. Learner takes some time to understand the class environment and adapt. It is very difficult for learner to adapt, understand and merge the different disciplines in the beginning.

Learning power

Some learners very quickly understand the questions and solve the problems. If the learners solve the problems easily, it means the understanding level of a learner is high as compared to another person who takes the more time to understand and solve the problems.

Nervousness

Nervousness is the natural attribute of learners. If the learner feels nervousness, it means that they have lack of knowledge about the things. It can be removed with the help of teaching-learning process.

Application of mind & Creativity

All Learners have the different approach to their lives. Most of the learners accept what is taught to them but there are have many creative abilities. They have the ability to explore the things and think innovations.

Moreover, application of mind is necessary to remain ahead. In society different person have the different profession such as doctor, scientist, innovators and discovers are from the categories of learner who are creative.

A few other important outcomes of learning are also-

- Learning is a blend of new or old learner
- It is helpful to develop learner as well as society.
- It enhances the purposeful ability of learners.
- It helps the learner in adjusting to his environment.
- It results in a change in behavior of the learner
- Learning is a product of heredity and environment

Visual learners

They need to see. Learns best when information is presented in a manner that they can read, see, visualize

- Mind sometimes strays during verbal activities
- Likes to read
- Memorizes by seeing graphics or pictures
- Remembers faces
- Quiet by nature
- Notices details
- Finds verbal instruction difficult

Auditory learners

They need to listen or hear. Learns best when information is presented in the form of lectures, audio recordings

- Enjoys talking
- Distracted by noise
- Likes to be read to
- Memorizes sequentially
- Outgoing by nature
- Enjoys listening activities
- Has difficulty with written directions

Motor Learners

They learn best through motor activity. Various aspects of actions like frequency, duration, intensity, pressure are important for them

Motor learning is generally defined as a set of processes aimed at learning and refining new skills by practicing them

- Performance is the observable behavior
- Learning cannot be directly observed
- it is the change in the capability of a person to perform a skill

Kinesthetic Learners

They learn best by actually doing it. Carry out physical activity to practice and apply new information. They have to touch and feel things.

- Like to make things with their hands
- Remember best when they make things for their studies
- Making something for a subject helps them understand better
- Prefer making charts or posters for group projects to gathering the information
- Remember spelling if they write them several times

Logical Learners

They are the ones who always makes lists, gets organized and tries to find the link between one piece of the puzzle and another.

They are a natural fit for Maths, Science and other logic based subjects entri app

- Enjoy learning that is systemic or follows given procedures
- They typically work through problems and issues in a systematic way, and they like to create procedures for future use
- They can recognize patterns easily, as well as connections between seemingly meaningless content.

The next classification that we have for learners is based on their maturity level

Adolescence learner & Adult learner

Adolescence is the phase of life between 10 and 18 years of age whereas Adults are mature, fully developed individuals above the age of 18.

During adolescence the individual is quite dependent on teachers, parents etc, whereas adults are regarded as independent, self sufficient and responsible people

Characteristics of adolescence learners in terms of Academic or Intellectual development:

- Moving from concrete to abstract thinking
- Prefers active over passive learning
- High achievement when challenged and engaged
- An ability to be self-reflective

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- Developing the capacity to understand higher levels of humor, some of which may be misunderstood by adults to be sarcastic or even aggressive
- Interest in interacting with peers during learning activities

Characteristics of adolescence learners in terms of social development:

- As interpersonal skills are being developed, fluctuates between a demand for independence and a desire for guidance and direction
- others Seeking approval of peers and others with attention-getting behaviors
- Overreacting to ridicule, embarrassment, and rejection
- Exploring questions of racial and ethnic identity and seeking peers who share the same background

Characteristics of adolescence learners in terms of Emotional and psychological development:

- A desire to become independent and to search for adult identity and acceptance
- Concern about physical growth and maturity
- A belief that their personal problems, feelings, and experiences are unique to themselves
- Exploring questions of racial and ethnic identity and seeking peers who share the same background
- Mood swings marked by peaks of intensity and by unpredictability

Characteristics of adolescence learners in terms of Moral development:

- An understanding of the complexity of moral issues (question values, cultural expressions, and religious teachings)
- Needing and being influenced by adult role models who will be listened to and be trustworthy
- Show compassion and are vocal for those who are downtrodden or suffering and have special concern for animals and environmental issues
- Judges others quickly, but acknowledges own faults slowly

Now let us discuss the characteristics of adult learners in terms of Academic development:

- Generally goal oriented and they know what they want
- Practical, relevancy oriented and can foresee reasons for learning something
- Generally not dependent on others for directions
- Evaluate learning in terms of results and how this is going to be useful to them in the future
- Need educational programs that are organized and has clearly defined elements

Now let us discuss the characteristics of adult learners in terms of Social development:

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- Well aware of the social environment that they live in
- Usually bound by social customs, traditions, rituals etc and has their own views on every social aspect of life
- Social responsibilities are carried out efficiently and effectively and also capable of teaching
- Many self-directed adult learners prefer a learning community with whom they can interact and discuss questions and issues

