Nature and meaning of psychology

UNIT I: Psychology & Educational Psychology

Nature and meaning of psychology

Psychology as the science of mind

The search for a new meaning of the word ‘psyche’ faced criticism and the inability to define soul led the psychologists to ground of each individual's experience. However, such interpretations inhumanizing and animating each human body and became, somehow the body and its abode in the human heart, some said it is a vital principle.

defined soul as an entity which realizes an idea – not separable from not defining about the size, shape and the qualities of soul. Some rejected because the nature of soul could not be studied. People were psychology was first defined as the science of soul but this definition.

Psychology as the science of soul

Psychology, as may be evident from the following: '

Psycho was derived from the Greek word 'psyche', meaning 'soul' and 'logos' meaning 'study.' However, the meaning psychological principles that govern human and animal behavior.
The roots of psychology lies deep in our curiosity to know ourselves as well as our fellow men, to reach deeper and fuller understanding of the.
From the study of soul, the meaning of psychology was changed to the 'study of mind'. The term mind was considered to be the sum total of mental processes and it was thought to represent all the mental phenomena such as perceiving, thinking, imagining, and reasoning and mental processes and it was thought to represent all the mental activities like thinking, reasoning etc.; and affective activities like feeling.

The term behavior includes all collective for these activities. Therefore the term behavior is taken in its manifestation of life, i.e., it is the total response of organism to the situations of life. The term behavior is often used to mean actions which may not be always readily observed. It is the total response of organism. It is also his thoughts, feelings, attitudes, values, and the like.

Psychology was finally defined as the science of behavior. This definition was also rejected, as it is very small as compared to unconscious part. It is the tip of the iceberg, the entire body of which remains submerged under water. So this definition did not last very long.

Psychology as the science of consciousness

Now the meaning of psychology was changed to the study of consciousness. Consciousness means awareness of the situation, even the unconscious. Consciousness, meaning awareness, is influenced by another individual's physiological reaction which can readily be observed by another. The word behavior refers not only to an organism but also to the situation of life. The term behavior is currently in vogue. The word behavior is taken in its totality, containing a wide and comprehensive meaning. "Any manifestation of life is activity", says Woodworth and behavior is the collective for these activities. Therefore the term behavior is taken in its manifestation of life, i.e., it is the total response of organism to the situations of life. The term behavior is often used to mean actions which may not be always readily observed. It is the total response of organism.

Psychology as the science of behavior

Psychology was finally defined as the science of behavior. This definition is currently in vogue. The word behavior refers not only to an individual's physical reaction which can readily be observed by another. The word behavior is taken in its totality, containing a wide and comprehensive meaning. "Any manifestation of life is activity", says Woodworth and behavior is the collective for these activities. Therefore the term behavior is taken in its manifestation of life, i.e., it is the total response of organism to the situations of life. The term behavior is often used to mean actions which may not be always readily observed. It is the total response of organism.
Psychology is the study of human behavior and human relationships. Psychology is the science of behavior and experience.

John B. Watson, "Psychology is the science of behavior and experience.

Skinner, "Psychology is the science of behavior and experience.

J. B. Watson, "Psychology is the science of behavior.

Woodworth, "Psychology is the scientific study of the activities of the individual in relation to his environment.

Plato, "Psychology is the science of psyche or soul.

Crow and Crow, "Psychology is the study of human behavior and human relationships.

Some of the definitions of psychology are as follows:-

One to meet the environmental demands. Sometimes to modify the behavior of human beings in ways that enable the behavior of all living organisms. It seeks to understand, explain, and behavior. Psychology is the science of behavior as well as mental behavior, over as well abnormal, happy, sad, anger etc.
The nature of psychology is scientific which is evident from the following:

1. Psychology uses scientific method to collect data about behavior. The methods and techniques employed in the study of behavior in psychology are quite scientific. Steps like the analysis of behavior, truth by advancing objectivity, reliability, validity in the study of behavior in psychology, it emphasizes the search for influencings or nurturing it.

2. Scientific enquiry develops a way of thinking that is very much critical and evaluative to present knowledge values and beliefs. It has two aspects in the form of various branches of applied psychology like industrial, legal, educational psychology, and its facticity is also examined and ascertained.

3. Psychology possesses a well-organized theory which is supported by the relevant psychological laws and principles and is facticity is also examined and ascertained.

4. It has it applied aspects in the form of various branches of applied psychology like industrial, legal, educational psychology, and its facticity is also examined and ascertained.

5. It believes that every behavior has its roots and factors causing it.

6. Subjective ideas and opinions are not considered significant in the study of behavior in psychology. It emphasizes the search for truth by advocating objectivity, reliability, validity in the study of behavior in psychology, it emphasizes the search for influencings or nurturing it.

7. The nature of psychology is scientific which is evident from the following.
formulation of hypothesis, objective observation or controlled experimentation, deduction, verification and generalization of the results etc. provide the solid base for the scientific method and approach in psychology.

8. The results of the study of behavior are always open to verification under similar conditions by other experimenters and observers. These results may be accepted, modified, or altered in the light of the latest data and findings.

9. The established facts, principles, and laws of behavior in psychology enjoy universal applicability in practical life, in other bodies of knowledge and future researches in its own sphere.

10. An appropriate description and quantification of behavior is possible through psychology, we may make dependable predictions about the organism in the light of its studied behavior.
The scope of psychology is very vast. It studies, describes and explains the behavior of living organisms. The term 'behavior' carries quite comprehensive and wide meaning. Behavior includes all types of life activities and experiences of living organisms, whether cognitive or affective, implicit or explicit, conscious or unconscious. However, for the sake of convenience and proper specialization, the scope of psychology can be divided into a number of branches and fields as discussed below:

1. General psychology: This branch deals with the fundamental rules, principles, and theories of psychology, focusing on the behavior of normal adult human beings.

2. Abnormal psychology: This branch describes and explains the behavior of abnormal people in relation to their own environment. The causes, symptoms, and treatment of abnormalities of behavior form the subject matter of this branch.

3. Social psychology: This branch studies the human behavior in relation to his social environment. One's behavior as a member of a society influences and is influenced by the behavior of others.

The scope of psychology is very vast. It studies, describes, and explains the behavior of living organisms.
3. Social psychology: - This branch of psychology is concerned with the study of mental processes and behavior in social situations. It examines how human beings interact with each other, how they form relationships, and how these relationships influence their thoughts and behaviors. It also explores the role of social factors in shaping human behavior and mental processes. This branch of psychology deals with the Group, the process of communication, and interpersonal relationships.

4. Experimental psychology: - This branch of psychology describes and explains the ways and means of carrying out psychological experiments following scientific methods in controlled laboratory situations. The purpose of raising the quality of production, consumer psychology, and establishing training and placement of human capital, establishing the purpose of raising the quality of production, consumer psychology, and improving the working environment of the human resources for the industrial world, all aims at bringing studies, the human behavior in relation to the situations and establishing the behavioral patterns of the animals through various types of experiments and observations. Consumer psychology, selection training, and placement of human resources for the industrial world, aims at bringing studies, the human behavior in relation to the situations and establishing the behavioral patterns of the animals through various types of experiments and observations.

5. Animal psychology: - This branch of psychology deals with the behavior of animals. It is devoted to the study of animal behavior in controlled situations. The study of animal behavior in controlled situations provides insights into the nature and development of behavior. The results of these studies can be generalized to understand the behavior of humans in dealing with behavioral, adjustment, and development problems of the human beings. Such studies are of comparative and inferential nature. The results of these studies can be generalized to dealing with behavioral, adjustment, and development problems of the human beings.

6. Environmental psychology: - It is that branch of psychology which is concerned with the study of human behavior in relation to the environment prevalent in the industrial world. It aims at bringing studies, the human behavior in relation to the situations and establishing the behavioral patterns of the animals through various types of experiments and observations. Consumer psychology, selection training, and placement of human resources for the industrial world, aims at bringing studies, the human behavior in relation to the situations and establishing the behavioral patterns of the animals through various types of experiments and observations.

Industrial psychology: - It is that branch of psychology which studies the human behavior in relation to the situations and establishing the behavioral patterns of the animals through various types of experiments and observations. Consumer psychology, selection training, and placement of human resources for the industrial world, aims at bringing studies, the human behavior in relation to the situations and establishing the behavioral patterns of the animals through various types of experiments and observations.
Meaning and Nature of Educational Psychology

Like other natural sciences, psychology has two aspects; pure and applied. In this way the job of an educational psychologist resembles that of an engineer, who is a technical expert and understands the processes by which they learn and their social capacities, and the psychologist helps the teacher to understand the development of his pupils, the range and limits of their personalities. The essential knowledge and skill to do this job desirably changes in them for the all round development of their educational environments. Education by all means is an attempt to mould and shape the behavior of the students. It aims to produce educational psychology, which finds its practical shape in its applied aspects that is branches of the theories and suggests techniques for the study of human behavior. Applied as pure psychology, it formulates broad principles, brings out applied psychology, like occupational psychology, clinical psychology, and so on. Therefore educational psychology is nothing but one of the branches of crime psychology, educational psychology and so on.
Learn and their social relationships. The range and limits of their capacities, the process by which they help the teacher to understand the development of his pupils.

4. E.A. Peal, “Educational Psychology is the science of education and various stages of development.”

Educational Psychology is the science which explains the changes that take place in an individual as he passes through old the learner experiences of an individual from birth through old age.

2. Crow and Crow, “Educational Psychology describes and explains psychological which deals teaching and learning.”

3. Judd, “Educational Psychology is the science which explains the

4. Skinner, defines it as, “Educational Psychology is that branch of psychology in their own ways. Some of the definitions are given below:

From time to time psychologist has tried to define educational technology of education.

It is quite reasonable to call Educational Psychology as a science and bring in all round development in the students personality. In this way, educational environment and desired modifications in his behaviour to essential for understanding the behaviour of the pupil in response to educational psychologist who is a technical expert in the field of educational psychology, supplies all the information, principles and techniques to accomplishment of a job like construction of a bridge. In the same way, educational psychologist supplies all the knowledge and skill essential for the satisfactory
The nature of educational psychology is scientific as such it has been accepted as a science of education. We can summarize the nature of educational psychology in the following way:

1. Educational psychology possesses a well organized systematic and universally accepted body of facts supported by relevant psychological laws and principles.
2. Educational psychology is an applied branch of the subject psychological laws and principles.
3. Educational psychology deals with the behavior of the pupil in a proper and satisfactory way.
4. It is not concerned with what and why of education. It provides various technical skills, guidance in order to give education to the learner in relation to educational environment.
5. It is an applied positive science. It is not normative science as it is not concerned with what ‘ought to be’.
6. It employs scientific method and adopts scientific approach in order to study the behavior of an individual in educational environment.
7. Prediction of behavior and the controlling of the factors and generalized results give educational psychology a complete educational psychology in the following way:

Nature of educational psychology
makes educational psychology a dynamic discipline.

8. The principles of educational psychology and its theories are scientific.

9. A number of learning theories have been developed in educational psychology on the basis of experimentation on animals. Then results are applied to human beings; this approach is again scientific.

10. Human behavior is not static in any way. It is all the time vulnerable to change due to the effects of the environment. This makes educational psychology a dynamic discipline.
Functions of Educational Psychology

Educational psychology supplies all the information, principles and techniques which may help a teacher in better teaching and a learner in better learning. Let us now see how the knowledge of this branch helps and other aspects of his mental health. and other aspects of his mental health.

1. Understanding the Learner:

- Children are as complex as automobiles, so it is as important for a teacher to understand the child as it is for a driver or a mechanic to understand the automobile. A driver who does not understand the automobile very well is likely to abuse his car and a mechanic without understanding the mechanism of an automobile can cause damage to the motor and working parts of the car. Similarly a teacher who does not understand the children very well is an educational liability. Without knowing the potentialities of his learners, he cannot go ahead in his task. So it is educational psychology which equips a teacher with the understanding of the child in terms of his interests, aptitudes, innate capacities, and abilities - the stages of development through which a child passes and the social, emotional, physical and aesthetic needs attached to these stages - the understanding of development and of the child in terms of his interests, aptitudes, innate capacities, and educational psychology which equips a teacher with the understanding of potentialities of his learners, he cannot go ahead in his task. So it is educational psychology which supplies all the information, principles and techniques which may help a teacher in better teaching and a learner in better learning. Let us now see how the knowledge of this branch helps and other aspects of his mental health.
teacher to take care of the desirable learning situation. Taking place in his classroom, so educational psychology equips the teacher can be extended if he understands the psychological as a result of his actions. The competency and general effectiveness of any have a good understanding of what he is doing and what is happening. The teacher not only needs to know his subject matter but he also needs to depend upon the appropriateness of the learning situation. The environment or we can say a learning situation. Much of the education and the learner, education also comprises of another component that is according to the learning situation he faces. circumstances. A teacher should select a proper device or method gives birth to suitable methodology but it also suggests that no single maintains the interest of the students in the learning process. It not only the teacher in solving the problem of how to teach, it reveals how to deciding about the learning material, educational psychology also helps 3. To arrange learning situations or environments: Besides the teacher their stage of development. This learning material will be organized according to of learning etc. so that learning material will be organized according to the learner at each stage of his development. The nature and laws which acquaints the teacher with the knowledge of the characteristics educational psychology which gives answer to these questions and the child or how to grade or organize the material, it is the type of learning experiences or learning materials is to be provided to educate the child but certain questions come in his way like – what
To acquaint oneself with the mechanism of heredity and environment: The knowledge of the role played by heredity and environment in the process of growth and development of child is very essential for the teacher. Based on this he can weigh their relative importance and take a balanced decision for his work. It is again essential for the teacher, based on this he can weigh their relative importance in the process of growth and development of child.

Helping and maintaining discipline: Knowledge of educational psychology helps the teacher in rendering guidance services to his pupils. He is the person who knows the child better than the child’s parent. With the knowledge of educational psychology at his command, he can better acquit himself with the nature of the child, his strengths and weaknesses, his interests and aptitudes etc. He is the person who knows the children better, even more than their parents. With the knowledge of educational psychology at his command, he can better understand the discipline problems and get to the root of the problem. He can better diagnose the abilities, interests and aptitude of his pupils and accordingly have an idea of the direction and speed of their development. In this way with the help of educational psychology a teacher can show the right direction to his pupils for their personality development.

Helping and maintaining discipline: Knowledge of educational psychology helps the teacher to have a creative type of discipline as it acquaints him/her with the nature of the child, his strengths and weaknesses, his interests and aptitudes etc. He can better understand the discipline problems and get to the root of the problem. He can better diagnose the abilities, interests and aptitude of his pupils and accordingly have an idea of the direction and speed of their development. In this way with the help of educational psychology a teacher can show the right direction to his pupils for their personality development.
Helping in evaluation and assessment: After imparting learning experiences to the child, the behavioral changes occurred in him need to be examined and also in the beginning the potentialities are to be known. In educational psychology evaluation, measurement, and appraisal find its place, which makes the teacher well equipped for the task of evaluation with proper professional skills.

Solving classroom problems: There are enumerable problems like backwardness, truancy, bullying, cheating in the classroom situations which are to be faced by a teacher. Educational psychology helps the teacher on this front also. The study of the characteristics of problem children, the dynamics of the group, behavioral characteristics and adjustment etc. equip the teacher to solve the actual classroom problems. The knowledge of educational psychology helps the teacher to know about him/her self, his own behavior pattern, likes dislikes, motivation, anxiety conflicts, personal characteristics, etc. are all revealed to him/her. He/she also learns the psychology of growing as a successful teacher.

Knowing about self: - Knowledge of educational psychology helps in building a teacher and characteristics of effective teaching. All this helps him/her being a teacher and acquiring himself with the traits of a successful teacher. He/she also learns the psychology of personality characteristics, likes dislikes, motivation, anxiety conflicts etc. The teacher to know about him/her self, his own behavior pattern, and to be examined and also in the beginning the potentialities are to be known. In educational psychology evaluation, measurement, and appraisal find its place, which makes the teacher well equipped for the task of evaluation with proper professional skills.
Bibliography

S.K. Mangal. Essentials of educational psychology
S.S. Chauhan. Advanced educational psychology
MS Ansari. UGC NET

Hanuman, Introduction to psychology

Ernest Hilgard, Richard C Atkinson, Rita L Atkinson, Introduction to

SK Mangal. Advanced educational psychology

Seema Naz. Psychology of learning and development

S.K. Mangal. Essentials of educational psychology