

**SEMESTER V1**

**SUBJECT: - EDUCATION [GENERIC]**

**COURSE CODE: OEDUGENE03**

**UNIT: - 111 rd**

## **Meaning and Nature of Learning**

**Introduction:** - *Learning is a cyclic process which starts from what one knows and it goes towards what one wants to know. All human beings learn different types of behavior throughout their life. The success of human life depends upon the process of learning. It is said that ignorance is a curse in our life that is why everyone is always busy in pursuit of knowledge. Acquiring and up gradation of knowledge is learning. In the process of learning an individual learns from his own experiences it is rightly said that "to live is to learn and to learn is to live." Hence learning occupies a very significant role in the life of an individual.*

**meaning / concept** :- *learning is a cognitive process of acquiring skill or gaining knowledge. It is a continuous process we cannot see learning but we can observe the*

*changes in our behavior which occurs due to learning. Learning changes the attitudes of individuals to a large extent. An individual responds and reacts to any situation or style due to learning. So it is a relatively permanent change in behavior caused by experience. It is an ongoing process, our knowledge about the world is being revised constantly as we are exposed to new stimuli and receive feedback that allows us to modify our behaviors. In simple words learning or acquiring knowledge, skills etc are aimed at enhancing a person's decision making capability, problem solving ability, judgmental capabilities, ability to shoulder responsibilities and above all it is a key to the structure of our personality and behavior.*

## **Definitions:-**

- *Gardner Murphy: - "The term learning covers every modification in behavior to meet environmental requirement."*
- *Henry p. Smith: - "Learning is the acquisition of new behavior as a result of experience."*
- *Woodworth: - "Any activity can be called learning so far as it develops the individual and makes him alter his behavior and experience different from what they would otherwise have been."*
- *Crow & Crow: - "Learning involves the acquisition of habits, knowledge and attitudes."*

- **Skinner: - “Learning is both acquisition and retention.”**
- **Kimble: - “Learning is a relatively permanent change in behavioral potentiality that occurs as a result of reinforced practice.”**
- **Characteristics of learning:-**
- **Learning brings change in human behavior.**
- **Learning is a continuous life long process.**
- **It is purposive and goal oriented.**
- **Learning involves reconstruction of experiences.**
- **Learning is the product of activity and environment.**
- **It is transferrable from one situation to another.**
- **Learning helps to achieve the goal of teaching and learning.**
- **Learning helps in proper growth and development.**
- **Learning helps in the personality development of an individual.**
- **It helps in adjustment of life. Hence it involves problem solving skill**

1. **Learning brings change in behavior:** - Learning is the process by which one acquires, ingests, and accepts information. By obtaining information & knowledge it brings change in human behavior.
2. **Learning is a continuous process:** - Learning is a lifelong process of gaining and using the information presented to a person. It is not static. A person never stops acquiring new information. It keeps a person's mind active and makes him aware about the world around him.
3. **Learning is purposive and goal oriented:** - Learning is a goal oriented process which aims to bring positive changes in the Personality and life of an individual.
4. **Learning involves reconstruction of experiences:** - Learning is a reconstruction of experiences moreover it includes combined thinking, skill, information and appropriation in a single unity process.
5. **Learning is product of activity and environment:** - Learning is a product of activity and environment. It is commonly seen that an individual learns new things when he interacts with his environment more easily.
6. **Learning is transferrable in nature:** - Learning is transferrable in nature. Transfer of learning helps in every walk of life for e.g. a child learns the knowledge of alphabets in primary

*classes and when he is promoted to next higher class he use to transfer this learning and makes sentences with the help of the alphabets which he already learnt in his previous class. In this way learning is transferrable in nature.*

7. **Learning helps to achieve the goals in the process of teaching and learning** :- Cognitive approach of Learning plays a very significant role in the process of teaching and learning it studies man's thinking, memory, language, development, perception, imagery and other mental processes in this way it helps to achieve the goals of teaching and learning.
8. **Learning helps in growth and development**: - Growth and development of the child is also influenced positively by the process of learning. For e.g the child learns to act and react in every stage of growth and development.
9. **Learning helps in personality development**: Learning helps to develop the personality of an individual in a harmonious and balanced way i.e. it provides a key to the structure of our personality.
10. **Learning and adjustment**: - The term learning stands for all

*those changes and modifications in the behavior of the individual during his life time. It is confined not only to school learning, reading or writing but it is comprehensive term which help an individual in the adjustment of his entire life .*

## **Personal Factors of Learning**

*The process of learning is influenced by variety of personal factors. A thorough knowledge of these factors will prove to be very helpful in the process of learning by noticing these personal factors teachers gain a deep insight into personal factors that impact student's outcome. Some of the personal factors that affect the process of learning are as below:-*

- 1. **Sensation and Perception:** - Sensation and Perception are the psychological factors that influenced the process of learning. Sensation is at the core of perception. We know that our sense organs are the gateways of knowledge and helps in the perception of various stimuli in the environment. Any defect in any of these sense organs will affect learning*
- 2. **. Emotional conditions:** - Desirable emotional conditions enhance the quality and speed of learning to a great extent. Happiness , joy and satisfaction are always favorable for all type of learning on the other hand adverse emotional conditions always obstructs the learning process .*
- 3. **Age and Maturation:**- Learning is directly dependent upon*

*age and Maturation. No learning can take place unless individual is matured enough to learn. Some childrens can catch and learn the problem in a better way than others at earlier age.*

4. **Fatigue and Boredom:** - *Fatigue is mental or physical tiredness which decreases efficiency and competency to work. Boredom on the other hand is a lack of desire or an aversion to work such an aversion makes one to feel tired. It is mainly boredom which causes the impression of fatigue and decreases the efficiency of the students towards learning.*
5. **Needs:-** *The Needs are relatively permanent tendencies which seek satisfaction in achieving certain specific goals. When these goals are achieved the particular need is satisfied or met for the time being. Needs are one of the important personal factor which influences the process of learning to some extent.*
6. **Level of Motivation :-***Motivation is considered as the heart of learning and golden road to learning . It generates the will power among the individual towards learning. Adequate Motivation not only engages the student in an activity which results in learning , but also sustains and directs learning .*
7. **Intellectual Ability:** - *Intellectual ability also affects learning. For e.g. Some students can readily understand abstract concepts, while others need concrete examples. Everyone has different intellectual strengths and weaknesses. So it is observed that intellectual ability or I.O level of the student*

*is also responsible for sound and effective learning.*

8. **Prior knowledge or transfer learning:**- *A student could have the highest I.Q, but if he hasn't been exposed to basic concepts that relates to the lesson or unable to transfer the previous learning in present situation he will have difficulty in learning hence prior knowledge of the student helps them to bring positive results in learning.*
9. **Physical health:** - *Health hampers the learning. Sound mind resides in a sound body. Sound physical health gives vigor and vitality to pursue learning activities for a sound and effective learning*
10. **Atmospheric conditions:** - *High temperature and humidity lowers the mental efficiency. Low ventilation, lack of proper illumination. Noise and physical discomfort hampers the learning. Distractions of all sort affects power of concentration and consequently the efficiency of learning.*

***Laws of learning by E.L Thorndike***



*Thorndike was one of the early psychologists who tried to interpret learning by connecting links or linking stimuli and responses. He saw that the most distinctive forms of science in man and animal alike is learning by trial and error . Thorndike is given the credit of the formulation of the major laws of learning on the basis of his belief in connectionism. These laws are originally the outgrowth of experiments in the field of animal psychology. The laws as initially formulated by Thorndike are three in number:*

- 1. Law of readiness*
- 2. Law of Exercise*
- 3. Law of Effect*

***Law of Readiness:*** - *When a bond is ready to act, then the act gives satisfaction. Readiness means ready for an action. Law of readiness is also called Law of motivation. The learner must be mentally set or ready to learn any new activity or task. It is very important for learning. it is commonly observed that if a child or learner is ready to learn , he grasps and learn the matter more quickly and easily on the contrary if the learner is not prepared and ready for learning he did not catch or learn the topic easily and effectively . in simple words in order to learn anything more easily and effectively the child must be mentally prepared and ready for it in advance because mental preparedness of the students enable them to grasp the information or knowledge in least possible time.*

***Educational implications:-***

- *The teacher should arouse curiosity for learning new lesson and creates desire for learning a new idea so that the pupils feel ready to imbibe the new experiences.*
- *The teacher should, before taking up the new lesson arouse the interest and desire of the student. So teacher must motivate the student before teaching a lesson.*
- *The teacher should direct the students towards the goal of the activity or task. Once the goal is clear, the students learn with great interest and try to achieve that goal.*
- *The teacher should seek the attention of the students towards the lesson in advance.*

### **Law of Exercise:-**

*“Practice makes a man perfect.”*

*The above lines are very appropriate for this law, it is commonly observed that the things that are most often repeated are best remembered. This law is also known as law of use and law of disuse. It stresses on the need of repetition, practice and drill work in learning process:-*

**Law of use:-** *when a modifiable connection is made between a situation and a response then the connection's strength is increased. In other words the learning is strengthened with repeated trials and practice.*

**Law of Disuse:-** *Learning is weakened when trial or practice is discontinued. When a modifiable connection is not made between stimulus and response then forgetting occurs.*

*Hence if an activity is repeated again and again it can be learnt in better manner and lack of repetition causes forgetfulness.*

### **Educational implications:-**

- *The teacher should provide different opportunities to the learners to practice or repeat the task.[ recall , manual drill, review etc.]*
- *The teacher should have constant practice in what has once being learnt. Delayed use may cause forgetfulness.*
- *It leads to the formation of good habits.*
- *It is helpful in eradicating bad habits*
- *Handwriting of the students can be improved by doing sound and constant practice.*
- *The skills like music, painting, singing, drawing etc can be developed to the maximum with the help of practice and drill.*

### **Law of Effect:**

*This law is also called law of pleasure and pain or law of satisfaction and annoyance. It is seen that learning is strengthened when it is accompanied by a pleasant or*

*satisfying feeling and learning is weakened when it is associated with an unpleasant feeling. Hence the emotional state of the learner affects the process of learning. According to this law, satisfaction strengthens the stimuli- response relation and dissatisfaction weakens it. This law is based on reward and punishment.*

### **Educational implications:-**

- *As failure is accompanied by a discouraging emotional state, it should be avoided.*
- *Reward and recognition plays a great role in encouraging the pupils.*
- *Punishment should be avoided as far as possible. Punishment produces a negative effect, and it causes discouragement. .*
- *This law develops the spirit of hard work among the students.*

### **Trial and Error Theory of Learning: Thorndike**

*Trial and Error Theory of Learning is propounded by a famous American psychologist E. L Thorndike . He was the first American psychologist in S-R theories .He introduced the concept of reward in learning. He showed how to*

*manage a trial-and –error experiments in laboratory. Trial and Error learning involves learning by trying alternative possibilities until the desired outcome is achieved. This theory stressed the importance of mental readiness, meaningful practice and intensives in learning process. It is a heuristic method of problem solving. All learning according to Thorndike is the formation of bonds or connection between stimuli- response. It is also known as pleasure and pain theory, S-R or Bond theory.*

**Experiment:-** *In his famous experiment a hungry cat was placed in a box and outside the box he placed a dish of food. It was impossible for the cat to get the plate, unless it could open the door and get out. Thorndike had arranged the puzzle box such that, the cat either had to pull a loop or press a lever in order to open the door. Initially the cat moved up and down inside the box accidentally her paw step on the slat and door opened and the cat came out but Thorndike again put the cat in the box. He repeated this activity several times it was seen that as the number of trials increased the errors of the cat was decreased. And at last cat learn to come out of the box with the method of Trial and Error learning.*

### **Educational implications:-**

- *Motivation is the key to teaching and learning .the teacher should motivate the child by giving reward and praising them.*

- *Trial and error theory of learning helps to form good habits among the childrens. Thus the teacher and the parents should use this method for habit formation*
- *Various skills of learning like sitting , standing , walking , running, painting , drawing etc can be learnt with the help of this approach.*
- *In insight full learning, trial and error theory is involved.*
- *Many scientific inventions, machines and improvements are the result of trial and error*

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