



Significance of Educational Psychology for Teachers

PARIMAL P.GOHIL
Vidhyasahayak,
Shree Vajadi Virada Primary School,
Rajkot, Gujarat (India)

Abstract:

A teacher acts as a philosopher and a guide to the students. He must know the growth and development of the child and his requirements at different levels. Educational psychology helps the teacher to study the ability, interests, intelligence, needs and adopt different techniques of teaching for effective communication. The utility of educational psychology for the teachers has been emphasized in both theory and practices of teaching and learning. In this way the author tries to introduce the significance of Educational Psychology for teacher through this article.

Keywords: Education, Educational Psychology, Philosopher, Relevance, Significance

1. Introduction

Educational psychology is the study of how humans learn in educational settings, the effectiveness of educational interventions, the psychology of teaching, and the social psychology of schools as organizations. Educational psychology is concerned with how students learn and develop, often focusing on subgroups such as gifted children and those subject to specific disabilities. Researchers and theorists are likely to be identified in the US and Canada as educational psychologists, whereas practitioners in schools or school-related settings are identified as school psychologists. This distinction is, however, not made in the UK, where the generic term for practitioners is "educational psychologist." Educational psychology can in part be understood through its relationship with other disciplines. It is informed primarily by psychology, bearing a relationship to that discipline analogous to the relationship between medicine and biology. Educational psychology in turn informs a wide range of specialities within educational studies, including instructional design, educational technology, curriculum development, organizational learning, special education and classroom management. Educational psychology both draws from and contributes to cognitive science and the learning sciences. In universities, departments of educational psychology are usually housed within faculties of education, possibly accounting for the lack of representation of educational psychology content in introductory psychology textbooks.

2. Importance of Educational Psychology for Teacher

The importance of educational psychology for a teacher can be divided into two aspects i.e.:

1. To study teaching and learning situations.
2. Application of teaching and learning principles.

2.1 To Study Teaching and Learning Situations

Educational psychology contributes a lot for increasing the teaching efficiency of the teacher in different areas mentioned below.

2.1.1 Individual Difference

A teacher has to deal carefully with a group of students in class room situation. As there, are wide variations in different abilities among the students. Therefore it is very essential to understand the individual difference of students regarding their ability, interests, attitudes & need at different levels of growth and development.

2.1.2 To Know the Classroom Teaching-Learning Process

A well developed theory of class room teaching and learning is helpful for transacting the content to the students effectively, which includes class-room climate and the teaching competence which are required for effective communication and presentation of content. A teacher must know the appropriate principles of teaching-learning, different approaches to teaching for better result of teaching-learning process.

2.1.3 Awareness of Effective Methods of Teaching

The method of teaching is based on the developmental characteristic of the students. For example History is taught effectively to small children with the help of storytelling method because small children like stories. So the classroom teaching depends on the teachers' knowledge about the interest of students and methods of teaching for the students of different age-groups.

2.1.4 Curriculum Development

The course of study of particular degree or diploma is prepared by teachers. Knowledge of psychology is helpful in developing curricular of different levels of students in different subjects. The developmental characteristics and needs of the students are also taken into account in the formulation of curriculum.

2.1.5 To Study Mental Health of Students

In the process of teaching & learning activities in the classroom, mental health of the teacher and the taught plays significant role. As the mental condition influence directly the achievement of students. The mental health of teacher and students must be normal or healthy. There are different causes of mental illness of the teacher and the taught. It should be known to the teachers to regulate teaching - learning process.

2.1.6 Guidance to the Students

A teacher has to play different roles in school as guide, philosopher, and leader. Guidance is a type of assistance to the students to solve their problems by themselves. The knowledge of psychology enables the teacher to provide necessary educational and vocational guidance to the students of different age groups.

2.1.7 Measuring Learning Outcomes

Teacher has to perform two important activities in classroom such as teaching and testing. The testing activities help in measuring learning outcomes of the students to judge their improvement and effectiveness of teaching-learning process.

2.2 Application of Teaching and Learning Principles

2.2.1 Objectives of Education

Education is a purposive attempt to bring about desirable changes in the students behavior. The objectives of education are realized in terms of behavioral changes among the students. Teachers have to create the learning conditions to provide knowledge and experiences to the students for the changes of behavior. They have to relate teaching to learning by appropriate method of teaching.

2.2.2 Use of Audio-Visual aids in teaching

The teacher can take the help of scientific devices. The Topic of presentation in the classroom can be made interesting by involving more students' participation. Television is a more popular device as compared to radio, because television it provides both audio and visual experiences. Many difficult concepts can be made easy and interesting by the use of audio-visual teaching aids. The knowledge of psychology is necessary to plan and teaching aids appropriately.

2.2.3 Co-curricular Activities

Education is to have all-round development of the child. The curricular exercise develops only cognitive aspects of j the child. Therefore other activities like games, sports scouting, girls guiding, debates, cultural programmes are essential along with curricular activities for whole some development of the child.

2.2.4 Preparation of time table

The Class-room teaching of various subjects is organized by perfectly arranged time table. Knowledge preparation of time-table needs thoroughly psychology. As the difficulty subjects like mathematics and science are placed in the first I periods and other subjects like history, geography are usually | taught in the last periods.

2.2.5 Democratic Administration

The school and class room administration should also be impartial and democratic. It should provide freedom of expression to the students to explore their innate power. The students problems are to be solved sympathetically through mutual discussion and understanding.

The study of educational psychology is thus very useful for teachers for planning, organizing and evaluating the teaching learning activities in the class.

3. Relevance of Psychology

The contribution of educational psychology to the theory and practice of education is rich and varied. The knowledge of educational psychology is important as it provides teachers with some basic skills and guidelines to solve the problems of teaching- learning process.

Teaching is not every body's cup of tea i.e., everyone cannot teach.

According to John Adams, "Teacher should know John as well as Latin". It means teacher should know child and subject- matter. A teacher should know the nature, capacities, likings and aptitudes and attitudes of the child. Child is like a book, teacher should know each and every page of it."

Skinner's View, "The teacher needs psychology to bridge the lives of the young and the aims of education in our democratic society." Kuppuswamy's View, "Psychology contributes to the

development of the teacher by providing him with a set of concepts and principles." Teaching is an art. Knowledge of educational psychology is very useful and indispensable for the teacher because it gives knowledge to the teacher.

3.1 Knowledge of Innate Nature

The child has got natural urges instincts, potentialities and propensities. These innate qualities are the "Prime movers" of his behaviour. The teacher who knows psychology can make his teaching very successful while keeping in view innate nature of the child.

3.2 Knowledge of Behaviour

Educational psychology assists the teacher in knowing the behaviour of the child at different stages of development. It also helps the teacher in understanding the physiological and psychological basis of behaviour, i.e., nervous system, glands, instincts, emotions, sentiments, motives, play, intelligence, heredity and environment etc.

3.3 Knowledge of Guidance

It helps the teacher in giving guidance to the pupils by having an understanding of interests, abilities, aptitudes, achievements, problems, educational and vocational plans of the pupils.

3.4 Knowledge of Unconscious Mind

It helps the teacher in knowing the unconscious mind of the students and plays very important role in the development of the personality of the individual.

3.5 Knowledge about Himself

It helps the teacher to know about himself. He learns the psychology of being a teacher and acquaints himself with the traits of a successful teacher.

3.6 Understand Development Characteristics

Children pass through different stages of development as infancy, childhood and adolescence. These developmental stages have their own characteristics. If the prospective teacher knows the characteristics emerging at different stages of development, he can utilize these characteristics in imparting instruction and moulding their behaviour according to the specified goals of education.

3.7 Understand the Individual Differences

No two individuals are alike. The teacher with the knowledge of the kind of individual differences may adjust his teaching to the needs and requirements of the class and thus may be helpful in creating conducive environment in the schools where the students can develop their inherent potentialities to the maximum. Understand the Nature of Classroom Learning. The knowledge of educational psychology provides a teacher the knowledge of learning process in general and problems of classroom learning in particular.

The teacher by the knowledge of educational psychology can understand the principles of learning and various approaches to learning process, problems of learning and their remedial measures and also about factors affecting and guidance for effective learning.

3.8 Understand Effective Teaching Methods

Educational psychology gives us the knowledge of appropriate teaching methods. It helps in developing new strategies of teaching. It also provides us with the knowledge of different approaches evolved to tackle the problems of teaching at different age levels.

3.9 Understand the Problems of Children

By studying educational psychology a teacher may understand the causes of the Problems of the children which occur at different age levels and can successfully solve them.

3.10 Knowledge of Mental Health

By studying educational Psychology teacher can know various factors which are responsible for mental ill health and maladjustment and can successfully help in Central hygiene.

3.11 Measurement of Learning Outcome

Psychological tools help the teacher to assess the learning outcome of the students and also to evaluate his teaching methods for required modification.

3.12 Curriculum Construction

Psychological principles are also used in formulating curriculum for different stages. Needs of the students, their developmental characteristics, learning patterns and needs of the society all are to be included in curriculum construction.

3.13 Research

Educational psychology helps in developing tools and devices for the measurement of various variables which influence the behaviour and performance of students.

3.14 Helps to Develop Positive Attitude

The teacher training programme aims to develop positive attitude towards teaching profession and provides the prospective teachers with the necessary competencies to meet the classroom challenges. Training colleges provide the knowledge of organizing the subject matter in a sequential order to suit the needs of the class. The trainees are also acquainted with the techniques of motivating children for learning.

3.15 Understanding of Group Dynamics

Educational psychology helps the teacher to recognize the importance of social behaviour and group dynamics in classroom teaching learning.

3.16 Problem of Discipline

With the knowledge of educational psychology teacher utilizes the importance of indirect discipline rather than corporal punishment. It tells the teacher that discipline should be self-discipline, dynamic, positive and constructive through participation in purposeful activity.

Pleasure and pain, reward and punishment, praise etc., should be judiciously used. If the teacher is unaware of the principles of educational psychology he may be unable to solve the problems of his students and thereby fail to induce order and discipline among them.

3.17 School and Class Administration

Former autocratic method of administration in school and class has been changed by democratic way of life wherein the teachers and administrators are more democratic, co-operative and sympathetic and problems of administration solved by mutual discussion.

3.18 Use of Audio-Visual Aids

Educational psychology has helped the teachers to make use of various types as audio-visual aids in classroom teaching so as to make the concept more clear, definite and learning to last longer.

3.19 Time-Table

The knowledge of psychology is helpful to the teacher in preparing time-table. He should keep in main the relative importance and toughness of different subjects and level and index of fatigue of the students.

3.20 Use of Innovations

Activity-centred teaching, discussion method, micro-teaching etc., are some innovative ideas adopted to improve the teaching learning process.

3.21 Co-curricular Activities

Activities like debate, drama, games are given due importance along with theoretical subjects for the harmonious development of the personality of children.

3.22 Production of Text Books

Educational psychology has helped in planning of text books according to the intellectual development of children, their needs and interests at different age levels. Undoubtedly the study of educational psychology may be very helpful to equip our prospective teachers with necessary skills to deal with classroom teaching learning problems.

4. Conclusion

Educational psychology involves the study of how people learn, including topics such as student outcomes, the instructional process, individual differences in learning, gifted learners and learning disabilities. Educational Psychology is a foundation for a teacher.

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