

Unit-5 Factors influencing Learning

After the completion of the unit, students will be able to:

1. Understand about the other factors influencing learning.
2. Acquire information about the different factors influencing learner and teacher in the learning environment.

Other factors influencing learning

- a). Learner related factors
- b). Teacher related factors
- c). School related factors
- d). Home related factors.

Learner Related Factors:

Some of the factors that influence learning, which are related to the learners are maturation, intelligence, attention, interest, fatigue and motivation.

Maturation:

Learning is possible only when a certain stage of maturation is reached. However much we try to teach a six month old child to walk, the infant cannot learn to walk, because his nerves and muscles are not yet matured enough to enable him to learn the talk of walking. The part played by maturation in the process of learning has a practical bearing. Maturation is reflected in the readiness of the child to do a certain activity. Maturation may be physical or mental. Psychologists have therefore suggested the pacing of various tasks. Pacing means presenting activities at a rate commensurate with the development of the child, children who are

mentally mature, and therefore ready, read many more books and solve many more problems than those less ready. Forcing an immature child to read number of books, will not produce good reader. The principle of maturation merely warns us against enforcing training on a child, when he is not mature to learn the specific skills; otherwise the child may develop wrong habits, may lose interest and then will require more time to unlearn the wrong habits.

Intelligence:

Intelligence as expressed by an IQ score an intelligence test is positively related to learning. Generally people with higher IQ's learn new material more rapidly. However the higher IQ in itself is no guarantee for rapid learning. Since other factors such as motivation of the learner and the methods used for learning are also important.

Attention:

Attention is the concentration of the consciousness upon one object rather than another. To attend to an object means to be aware of it more keenly and intensely than of anything else, to hold it in the focus of consciousness. Technically it can be defined as the selective activity of consciousness or as a process of getting an object of thought clearly before the mind. Many external and internal factors influence attention. A teacher's main concern is to sustain the attention of children for the whole period. For this interest is very important. Only if the child is interested, he will pay attention to an activity.

Interest:

There is an intimate connection between interest and attention. To have an interest in any subject or object is then to be ready to pay attention to it.

Medougall has aptly described the relation as:

"Interest is latent attention and attention interest in action".

For the teacher the objective is to develop an interest among the students for the particular subject he teaches.

Fatigue:

Fatigue is the state in which the organism is exhausted and requires rest. It is the condition of lowered efficiency due to expenditure of energy. In a state of fatigue, the output is diminished, or the quality is impaired or both are affected.

Motivation:

Motivation may be defined as a combination of forces which initiate, direct and sustain behavior towards a goal. Motivation is of particular significance to the classroom teacher, since the teacher has to guide and accomplish worthwhile goals. In a class room motivation is that which derives the student to learn i.e. it takes desirous of learning to apply him to the task. A teacher should use various motivational devices like praise vs blame, Competition Vs co-operation Reward Vs punishment, Success Vs failure to sustain interest and attention of the students.

Teacher Related Factors:

Methods of teaching, techniques of teaching, skills, interest of the teacher in his subject, Teacher's personality, Resourcefulness of the teacher, leadership are some of the factors which influence the teaching-learning process in the class room.

Each of the factors strongly matter for the teacher to effectively work in the class.

Job satisfaction is one of the key factors for good teaching.

School Related Factors:

Learning by student is also influenced by the school conditions and environment. The school building, the facilities offered-Laboratory, furniture, Ventilation, Black-board, Teacher-pupil ratio, Principal's personality and attitude, discipline, Cleanliness, Toilets etc are some school related factors which influence learning.

Home Related Factors:

Socio-economic background of the parents, stationary, textbook, home-environment, broken homes, single parents, parents' attitude towards each other, economic status, parental attention, parental educational level are some of the factors which influence the child in learning.

Check your progress

- What are the other factors that influence the learning of a learner?
- Being a teacher how can one improve the learning environment in and outside classroom?