interviewed. The subject may tend to be bored during the process and then the data obtained will not be valid.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.6. Discuss breifly the interview method.

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Q.7. Explain three advantages and three disadvantages of the interview method.

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2.3.4 Experimental Method

It is one of the most important and objective methods of psychology as it is very scientific. It is precise, planned, systematic, or in other words, it is observation under controlled conditions. According to J.W Best, "Experimental research is the description and analysis of what will be, or what will occur, under carefully controlled conditions". In experiments, there is always the attempt to establish certain cause and effect relationships through carefully planned and controlled observation of the subject's behaviour. The 'experimental methods' has certain characteristics. They are-

- In the experimental method the conditions are always controlled.

- Introspection means looking into-one's own emotions and feelings, so when one attempts to study one's mental state, it disappears and therefore it is different to introspect the changing psychological experiences.
- As the subject and investigator is same the introspection becomes subjective and biased and therefore the data may not be reliable and valid. The person may not consider certain facts.
- The introspection method cannot be done by abnormal individuals and children.
- A person should be highly trained and skilled to introspect properly.
- According to Kant, a famous scholar, it is not possible to accept conscious experience as the subject matter of psychology and then consider introspection as its proper method.

Hence, we can conclude that the introspection method cannot be considered as precise; the limitations can be overcome by proper training and only then can it become effective.



LET US KNOW

- Introspection is the oldest method of educational psychology.
- Introspection means 'self observation', i.e. to look into one's own mental state.
- Introspection means examining the inner behaviour of an individual by oneself.
- Introspection is the easiest and most economical of all methods of educational psychology.
- In this method the individual is both the subject and the observer.

- Introspection has generated a lot of research in experimental studeies.
- The data collected through the introspection method may not be reliable as an individual's mental state is changeable.
- The introspection method can not be done by abnormal people and children
- While introspecting an individual may hide certain facts of his mental state and therefore the obtained data may not be valid.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1. Explain very briefly about the Introspection Method.

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Q.2. Can the introspection method be applied to all?

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Q.3. Mention three drawbacks of the introspection method.

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2.3.2 Observation Method

It is one of the oldest and most popular methods of educational psychology. It has replaced the method of introspection

know the cause of any behaviour pattern of the subject, the historical background of each incident.

- The data collected through the interview method is reliable. The interviewer analyses and crosschecks the information provided, to find out whether the data is correct or not.
- The interview method can be applied on all types of people- literate or illiterate children and adults and at times also on mentally unbalanced persons.
- In the interview method, the subject and investigator are face to face with each other. Both discuss the problems and during discussion views can be exchanged and this is desirable in order to study every social problem along with the subject's own problems.

Demerits of the Interview Method : The demerits of the interview methods are :-

- It is a costly method. It involves a lot of traveling on the part of the interviewer. It is also time consuming as the interviewer has to physically locate a subject.
- A lot of planning is required. The investigator has to provide a number of stimuli to get information from the subject, must make careful observation of the latter's behaviour patterns so the interviewer must remember a number of things at the same time. So the whole process becomes too strenuous.
- The subject may not reveal his true feelings and emotions.
- Sometimes the interviewer may have preconceived notions which may not hold true during interview, but he is reluctant to change his views. P. V. Young said that biased and prior thinking may distort and invalidate the results of the whole interview.
- The interviewer's perception of things may clash with those of the interviewee's. Their beliefs and values may be totally different. So the Investigator must be very proficient and must have proper insight into human nature.
- There can be difficulty in persuading the subject to be

questions designed to obtain answers pertinent to research problems" According to P.V. Young, "Interviewing is not a simple way to conversation between an interrogator and informant. Gestures, glances, facial expressions and pauses often reveal subtle feelings"

Objectives of Interview Method :

- The main objective of the interview method is to collect information about unknown fact of the subject, his inner feelings,
- Another objective is to make sure that the interviewer and the subject know each other quite well, so that the collected data is verified well,
- Interview method aims at providing an opportunity to the investigator to observe the subject very closely; as a result, at times, the subject can provide new ideas to the investigator which help the latter in research work.

Types of Interview Method :

- There are different types of interview – focused interview repeated interview, clinical interview, diagnostic interview, research interview personal interview etc.

Merits of the Interview Method : The merits of the interview method are-

- High participation of the subject or respondent. The subject answers the questions in a free manner. Illiterate as well as children provide proper in-depth information as compared to other methods like observation, questionnaire method etc.
- This method is very flexible as it becomes possible for the interviewer to reframe, repeat and rephrase the questions as suitable for the subject.
- The subject's emotions can be studied well. It is often observed that during an interview, the subject may become emotional and get excited, and may express freely his fears, anxieties, and complexes.
- Through the interview method the investigator may get to

of self observation. The observation method is also called 'objective observation'. According to John Dollard, "The primary research instrument would seen to be the observing human intelligence trying to make sense out of human experience." Observation is one of the basic methods which mean that an individual's behaviour (i.e. a person's bodily gestures, facial expression and other bodily actions) is observed. It is accepted by psychologists that an individual's overt behaviour is the result of his internal mental conditions. The observer makes systematic observation through recording in a natural situation. Observation can be both natural and participant. In natural observation the experimenter observes and records the behaviour of the subjects in the natural setting as has been mentioned above; here the subjects are not conscious about their behaviour being observed. In participant observation, the observer becomes a member of the group, gains the confidence of the other group members by building rapport with them, and observes their behaviour. Here also the subjects are not conscious that their behaviour is being observed.

Certain principles should be followed in the observation method. They are:

- Observation should be made not only of the individual's behaviour but of the whole situation.
- Proper planning of the observation process should be made; objectives must be clear and the proper tools for recording must be kept properly.
- Observer must select the appropriate number of subjects to be observed. Too many will be difficult to manage.
- The time limit of observation must also be fixed. Too long time may make the observer distracted and tired and if it is too short it will not yield the proper information.
- As observation is a systematic process, the observer must have the proper skills and aptitude and the ability to report accurately. Only then will the data be reliable.

Advantages of the observation method : The observation method has certain advantages such as :

- It is observation of behaviour in natural setting.
- It is objective and therefore more reliable.
- It is applicable for all age groups.
- Observation can be done through simple tools as well as sophisticated ones like camera, tape recorder video recorder etc.
- Observation can be made in any situation of our day to day life.

Limitations of the Observation method : The limitations of the observation method are as follows:-

- Data can be collected only about observable behaviour or overt behaviour. Therefore, it can be unreliable at times as the subject's mental behaviour can be different.
- Personal prejudices, or in other words, subjectivity on the part of the observer can be a big drawback of this method. The observer's own interests, values may affect the interpretation of the data to a great extent.
- The behaviour of the subjects may be affected by the time and place. Their behaviour may be different at different times under the same circumstances.
- Sometimes the observation method lacks precision, as different observers tend to interpret the data in different ways. Therefore if the data collected are expressed in quantitative measures then they can be interpreted by statistical methods.
- The observation method fails to establish a cause-effect relationship between the subjects' behaviour and their surroundings. For examples delinquency may not always be caused by poverty, sometimes sound economic position of the subject can cause delinquent behaviour. Therefore it becomes difficult to draw conclusions that a particular situation can induce certain bind of behaviour in an individual.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.4. Explain very briefly the observation method.

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Q.5. Mention the principles of "Observation Method".

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2.3.3 Interview Method

Today, for psychological researches, mainly, interview method has become very popular. In this method there is direct face to face contact between the investigator and the subject. Here the interviewer or the investigator asks questions to the subject and records the answers usually without the latter knowing it. In the words of Fred N. Kerlinger, "The interview is perhaps the ubiquitous method of obtaining information from people. It has been and is still being used in all kinds of practical situations, eg. the lawyer obtains information from his client, the physian learns about a patient; the administrative officer or professor determines the suitability of students for schools, departments and curricula. Only recently, however, interview has been used systematically for scientific purposes, both in the laboratory and in the field. He also said that it is a face to face inter-personal situation in which one person, the interviewer asks a person being interviewed, the respondent,