problems of an individual by specially trained teachers, psychologist and psychologists.

- The investigator must be certain about the absence of any disease in the subject and must be very friendly with the latter.
- The behaviour of the subject should be observed in natural setting, – in the living and working conditions.
- Special care must also be taken in the post treatment period so that there is no recurrence of the problem.
- Efforts must be made to modify the environmental factors so that the individual can adapt letter.
- The investigator, however, should be technically proficient in handling a case or else there may be a tendency on the part of the investigator to become subjective.
- The possibility of errors in understanding the problems as well as in the treatment is high.
- Educational psychology deals with the problems of teaching and learning and helps the teacher to modify the learner's behaviour.
- The different methods and techniques help to gather facts about the different stages of developmentof the child, his conticuous adjustment with the environment by learning from experience.



2.6 FURTHER READINGS

1) Aggarwal, J. C., "Essentials of Educational Psychology", Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
2) Chaube, S. P., "Educational Psychology", Lakshmi Narain Agarwal, Educational Publishers, Agra-3
3) Safaya R. N., Shukla, C.S. Bhatia B. D., "Modern Educational Psychology", Dhanpat Rai Publishing Company (P) Ltd., New Delhi.

- It essentially requires at least two persons, the experimenter and the subject.
- Usually the experimental method is applied on persons in a random order.
- In the experimental method two different types of variables are used – (a) Independent variable like intelligence and (b) dependent variable like home or school environment, other socio-economic conditions etc.

Merits of Experimental Method : The experimental method has the following merits :

- It is the most systematic method and the conditions can be completely controlled.
- The data collected can be analysed in an objective manner and so it is reliable.
- A cause-effect relationship of individual's behaviour can be established.
- Hypothesis can be formulated and the result of the experiment can be tested keeping this in consideration.
- It discards subjective viewpoints.
- It increases the scope for further research as the result of the experimental method can be precisely recorded.

Drawbacks of the Experimental Method : The drawbacks of the experimental method are -

- As human behaviour is changeable, identical behaviour of the same individual not occur even under identical conditions at different times.
- Mostly experiments have been conducted on animals like cats, dogs and rats and the principles arrived at on the basis of such tests may not explain human beings.
- It is often difficult to conduct experiments in social sciences unlike physical sciences.
- The experimental method is costly and time consuming.

- The experimenter must have specialized skills to conduct experiments.
- The tools used in experiments may not be satisfactory and therefore the obtained data may not be reliable.
- The experimental method can produce results of probability and not certainly.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.8. Explain briefly the "Experimental Method".

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Q.9. What are the characteristics of the experimental method?

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Q.10. Mention two merits and two drawbacks of the experimental method.

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2.3.5 The Case Study Method

The 'Case Study' method deals with the emotional and mental state of an individual. This method is applied to study special behavioural problems of an individual by specially trained teachers, psychologist and psychiatrists. Through this method total information

- Some of the methods of educational psychology are - introspection, observation, experimental, case study, interview method, psychological method etc.
- The introspection method is the oldest of all the methods of educational psychology. It means 'self observation.'
- Introspection method is the easiest and does not require any tool.
- However in this method the investigator and subject is the same person and so a person may not consider certain feelings and so the data is subjective and therefore reliable.
- The 'observation' method is one of the most popular of all methods of psychology.
- Through this method the observer makes systematic observation in a natural setting.
- Observation method is objective as observation is made not only of the subject's behaviour but of the situation as a whole.
- Personal prejudices, or in other words, subjectivity on the part of the observer can be a big drawback of the observation method.
- The observation method fails to establish a cause effect relationship between the subject, behaviour and his surroundings.
- The 'experimental' method of psychology is precise, planned, systematic - it is observation under controlled conditions.
- The data collected through the experimental method can be analyzed in an objective manner.
- Hypothesis can be formulated and the result of the experiment can be tested keeping this in consideration. It discards subjective viewpoints.
- The experimental method is costly and time consuming and sometimes it is difficult to maintain properly controlled conditions.
- The experimental method can produce results of probability and not certainty.
- The 'Case-study' method studies the emotional and other behavioural

Q.12. Mention some steps of the case-study method.

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Q.13. Discuss two advantages of the case study method.

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Q.14. What are the limitations of the case study method?

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Q.15. Discuss briefly the importance of application of educational methods in the teaching learning process.

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2.5 LET US SUM UP

- One main objective of educational psychology is to help a teacher to understand his students in the educative process.
- The application of educational psychology is to know about a learner's personality.

of family background, schooling and also social conditions of the individuals is obtained; hence it can be called a cumulative record which is of great help in understanding the source of an individual's fears, anxiety, worry, or any kind of maladjustment. The main objective of this method is to help the individual adjust better with the environment and gain self confidence to attain higher levels of achievement. Different steps may be used in the case study method-some of them are mentioned below:-

- Basic preliminary information about the subject's name, age, sex, parent's age, education, occupation as well as social status.
- Proper physical check-up of the individual is done to ascertain whether his/her behavioural problem is due to any disease. Only in the absence of any physical ailment can psychological treatment start.
- The subject should be very comfortable with the investigator while the latter takes the information. The investigator (teacher or psychologist) should be friendly and the language of collecting data must be simple so that free and frank responses can be available.
- The investigator must not tire the subject; instead, regular intervals of rest should be given. The method cannot be applied hastily - it may go on for several weeks or months.
- The behaviour of the individual should be observed in natural setting and working conditions. Doing so will provide correct data which ultimately in most cases, will lead to proper understanding of the root cause of the person's problems.
- Special care must be taken in the post treatment period so that there is no recurrence of the problem. The parents and family members and other associates must take care so that the subject can modify his behaviour and prevent maladjustment.

Method of Treatment : Treatment methods of maladjusted individuals

include the following :-

- Efforts must be made to modify the environmental factors so that the individual can adapt better.
- If the existing environment cannot be modified then the individual should be physically placed in a different environment which is more congenial for his development.
- Proper guidance and counselling should be provided to the individual.
- Different types of therapies should be applied like play therapy, group therapy, psychotherapy etc. by experts.
- Case study method provides details about the individual's behaviour, an in-depth study about the root cause of the behavioural problems, and help to provide guidance to modify the behaviour of the subject.

Limitation of the Cast-study Method : The case- study also has certain limitations. They are :

- The investigator should be technically proficient to handle a case. In most cases, however, the investigators are not found to be experts in this field.
- Sometimes the information may become highly subjective. The subject, parents and other associates may hide certain facts about the subject's behavioural problems and so the data collected may not be reliable and valid.
- There is a possibility of the investigator of becoming involved with the problems of the individual and therefore his diagnosis and counselling or other methods of treatment may not be effective.
- The possibility of errors in understanding the problems as well as treatment is high; therefore utmost care must be taken to minimize the errors.

2.4 IMPORTANCE AND APPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL METHODS IN TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS

Educational psychology is a scientific and systematic study to know the behaviour of learners. It means application of psychological principles in the educational environment. Educational psychology deals with the problems of teaching and learning and helps the teacher to modify the learner's behaviour. As the scope of educational psychology is centred around the teaching learning process, several methods, which are already mentioned, are used. The main objective of the application of these methods is to study all the aspects of the learner's behaviour. The different methods and techniques help to gather facts about the different stages of development of the child, his continuous adjustment with the environment learning from experience. W. Wundt was the pioneer in establishing the first psychological laboratory in Leipzig. He emphasized on the importance of certain methods like experimental, case-study and others which can be applied to know about the subject in the teaching learning process. Before that period introspection was the only method of educational psychology.

Different methods provide inputs to interpret the behaviour of an individual – at times the state of his unconscious mind also. The educational methods study the cause and effect relationship of human behaviour. Individual difference is also studied through the various methods.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.11. Explain briefly the case study method.

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