heredity and environment on the personality development of the child. Heredity means the native potential and prospect of the child, whereas, environment represents the external factors like the surrounding in which we live, grow and learn various things.

- **Measurement of learning outcomes:** Educational psychology helps the teacher to asses the learning outcome of the student. The teacher can also evaluate their teaching methods in the light of the performance of the student. Thus educational psychology helps the teacher to modify the strategy and method of teaching.
- **Research:** Educational psychology helps in developing tools and devices for the measurement of various factors as well as variables which influence the behaviour and performance of students. In classroom teaching, the teacher can control, direct and predict the behaviour of students on the basis of research studies.
- **Provides knowledge about the efficacy of rewards and punishments**: Rewards and punishments are considered important tools of a teacher to modify the behaviour of the pupils. Educational Psychology helps the teacher to study and to realize the situation for improving the teaching-learning processes in the school
- **Provides knowledge about the mental abnormalities:** The knowledge of Educational Psychology helps teacher to find out the various mental abnormalities that the children has to suffer in school and also with the help of the psychological knowledge, the teacher can take effective measures to avoid or correct such abnormalities of the student in the school.
- **Use of innovations:** For improving or adding the up to date information or knowledge, teacher can apply information regarding new innovations and ideas in the field of education. In this regard, educational psychology can help the teacher by providing knowledge of such innovation; micro teaching, group discussion, team teaching etc..

Thus, from the above discussion we have found that educational psychology has great importance in teaching learning process. Because,

According to Skinner, “Educational psychology deals with the behavour of human beings in educational situation.”

Stephen’s view is that “Educational Psychology is the systematic study of the educational growth and development of a child.”

Psychologists Crow and Crow have defined that Educational psychology describes and explains the learning experiences of an individual from birth through old age.

Thus the subject matter of educational psychology is concerned with the condition that affects learning and behaviour of the individual. Educational psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour by which the goal of life can be understood, predicted and directed.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 1. What is the meaning of educational psychology?

.....

.....

Q. 2. Who is the founder of educational psychology?

.....

.....

Q. 3. Give a comprehensive definition of educational psychology.

.....

.....

Q. 4. How does educational psychology differ from general psychology?

.....

.....

Q. 5. Say True or False:

i. The word Psychology is derived from Greek word. ☐

ii. Etymologically, the meaning of psychology is ‘study of Soul’. ☐

iii. McDougall defines Psychology also the Science of Behavior. ☐

1.3.1 Nature of Educational Psychology

In this section, after going through the meaning of educational psychology, we are going to discuss in how many ways psychology can be predicted and directed in the field of education. A clear idea

about the nature of educational psychology will emerge from the following description.

An Applied Science: Educational psychology is an applied science; it is the application of psychological principles to the field of education.

A Positive Science: Education psychology is a positive science not a normative science. It means that it explains the facts and does not pass a judgment.

A Social Science: Educational psychology studies the individual from the educational point of view; its result is applicable to all the individuals or to a group of individuals. Such studies have social implications and relevance.

An Educational Science: Educational psychology deals with educational problems only. General psychology deals with the behaviour of individuals in various situations, but educational psychology studies the behaviour of the individual in educational situations.

A Specific Science: Although the science of psychology is general in nature, educational psychology deals with those facts and principles that have specific significance and utility for the process of learning and teaching.

A Growing and Developing Science: As a study of human behaviour and human nature, educational psychology is constantly growing in keeping with changing behaviour of an individual.

An Academic Discipline: Educational psychology is an academic discipline. As such it has focused upon research studies on human bahaviour.

Besides these, the basic purpose of educational psychology is to employ scientific methods and adopt scientific approach to study the behaviour of an individual in an educational environment.

understand the principles of learning and various approaches

- **To understand the effective teaching methods: :** Educational psychology helps the teacher in applying the appropriate methods of teaching. Besides this, it also helps him in developing new strategies of teaching. Classroom teaching is not dependent on any one theory; it uses and is related to several theories of teaching learning. The teacher must be acquainted with the knowledge of various theories in order to organise his classroom teaching. Educational Psychology provides us with the knowledge of different approaches evolved to tackle the problems of teaching at different age levels.
- **A Knowledge of mental health:** Educational psychology helps a teacher to understand the concept of mental health and also helps him to know how to maintain the mental health among the students in the school. Through the knowledge of educational psychology, the teacher can easily know the various factors which are responsible for the mental ill-health and maladjustment of the learners.
- **To understand the problems of children:** Educational psychology helps a teacher to understand the various needs and requirements of the students. It also enables him to understand the problems which are faced by the children in the classroom. With the knowledge of educational psychology, the teacher can take the remedial steps for solving those problems.
- **Curriculum construction:** Psychological principles are also used in formulating the curriculum for different stages. The developmental characteristics, learning patterns, needs and requirements of the society as well as children, all these are incorporated in the curriculum. Therefore, in order to make the curriculum effective, a teacher has to understand the correlation principle between school and society. He should also understand the capacity and mental level of the students while they are in learning.
- **Knowledge of heredity and environment:** Educational psychology helps a teacher to understand the influences of

learning process. It is said that the teacher is the only person who is closely associated with the students in school. As John Adams says, "the teacher teaches Latin to John", it means that to teach Latin properly to John; the teacher has to know John's psychology.

Samuel Smith, says "A thorough mastery of educational psychology aids the teacher to gain understanding of the pupil's motives and to provide for his needs." It means educational psychology helps the teacher to understand their students' needs, desires and motives through the proces of interaction in the classroom or in school.

According to Skinner, "The teacher needs psychology to bridge the lives of the young and the aims of education". Therefore, we find that educational psychology is of great help to the teacher. It helps in the following ways:

- **Understanding the child:** Educational psychology helps the teacher to understand the nature of development of the child in different stages. A teacher should have a thorough knowledge of all the stages (i.e. infancy, childhood, adolescence till reaching the adulthood stage) of development. Without the knowledge of such development characteristics, education can not be designed effectively for a child.
- **Understanding the individual difference:** By nature, no two individuals are alike. The teacher has to understand the varieties among the children in the classroom. Therefore, for giving education to the students, the course content should be organized or planned according to the purposes, interests and needs of the children keeping in mind the mental level of the children.
- **To understand the nature of classroom teaching:** Educational psychology helps the teacher to know the ways of the learning process in general and the problems of classroom learning in particular. Educational Psychology enables the teacher to instruct effectively in aids the teacher to gain understanding of the pupil's motives and to provide for his needs." It means educational psychology helps the teacher to understand their students' needs, desires and motives through the process order to organise his classroom teaching. Educational Psychology provides us with the knowledge of different approaches evolved to tackle the problems of teaching at different age levels. In the class to



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 6. Write short notes on the following (30 words)

I. Educational psychology as an applied science.

.....

.....

.....

II. Educational psychology as a growing and developing science

.....

.....

.....

III. Educational psychology as a Specific Science

.....

.....

.....

.....

IV. Educational Psychology as an Academic Discipline.

.....

.....

1.3.2 Scope of Educational Psychology

After having a fair understanding of Educational Psychology as a branch of Psychology, now we have to go through the scope of Educational Psychology. The scope means the area that educational psychology deals with or it may imply its field of study. But the real fact is that the scope of educational psychology is ever increasing, with unlimited possibilities.Till now, the Scope of educational Psychology includes the following applications :

- **Learner Behaviour:** Learner means those who are involved in learning process. Educational psychology studies the learner behaviour in an educational environment. Psychology is the study of behavior and education means the modification of behaviour.

- **Growth and Development of Learning Experiences:** Educational Psychology deals with the development of a child in the learning process. How a child passes through the various stages of growth, what are the characteristics of each stage of development etc are included as an area of study under educational psychology.
- **Learning Process:** Educational Psychology studies the laws of learning, methods of learning, nature and theories of learning. It studies how learning can take place most effectively and efficiently.
- **Heredity and Environment:** Educational Psychology studies those influences that contribute to the growth of the child's personality. It means, to what extent heredity and environment constitute to it and how the knowledge of psychology can be made use of to bring about the optimum development of the child.
- **Development and Adjustment of Personality:** Educational Psychology deals with the nature and development of the personality of an individual. In fact, education has been defined as all round development of the personality of an individual; personality development itself also implies a well-adjusted personality.
- **Individual Differences:** Human nature is focused with the help of educational psychology. Because it studies the human behavior and through it, the individual differences can be easily brought out.
- **Evaluation of Learning Performance:** Educational Psychology helps in the use of Statistical tools and methods in education and conducting research on educational problems.
- **Providing Guidance and Counseling:** Educational Psychology provides guidance and counseling to the learner for their all round development in life. Providing guidance and counseling is the most important area of study included in the field of educational psychology.
- **Mental Measurement:** Educational Psychology helps us to study the mental abilities as well as the talents of an individual, such as intelligence, aptitudes, attention etc. Mental Measurement is a promising field of study in the domain of educational psychology.
- **Mental Hygiene:** Mental hygiene is closely related to educational psychology. Today's social life is very complex and people suffer from variety of mental problems. Educational Psychology helps

people maintain a proper mental balance by making the mind free from various mental problems and anxieties.

These are some of the uses of Educational Psychology for an individual in general and a learner in particular. But there are so many aspects of education like character formation, adjustment, mal-adjustment, adjustment mechanisms, motivational mechanisms, growth of balanced personality etc. which are included in the field of educational psychology. Educational Psychology has further study to solve the various problems facing the teaching learning process.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 7. What is meant by the scope of educational psychology?

.....

.....



ACTIVITY 1.1

Describe some important areas that educational psychology deals with in classroom teaching.

.....

.....

1.4 IMPORTANCE AND APPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY IN TEACHING - LEARNING PROCESS

The application of educational psychology means the use of psychology in the classroom interaction or school interaction in the teaching-learning process. Therefore, it is very important to know how educational psychology helps a teacher to know his students and improve his own skill. It is obvious that a teacher should understand his students for an effective teaching