

# Chapter 1



## Introduction

### Meanings of the Terms

#### Education

During the normal course of his development from birth to maturity an individual comes across a number of people. Faces a variety of situations and undergoes varied experiences. Throughout his life he is subjected to a varying and continuous process of change, adjustment and learning through these experiences which contribute towards his mental and physical growth. Broadly speaking, this process of growing up and maturing is known as education.

#### Psychology

The scientific study of mind and behavior especially as it relates to human beings.

#### Educational Psychology

Educational psychology is a science which studies the process and factors involved in the education of human beings. It is a systematic study of the changes that take place in an individual analyses the learning experiences of the individual as he progresses in his educational journey. It highlights the conditions that promote or retard educational development of the learner.

#### Teaching

The purposeful direction and management of the learning process.

#### Learning

Relatively permanent change in an individual's behavior as a result of experience or practice. It includes acquisition of habits, knowledge and attitudes. It involves new ways of doing things.

#### Nature and <sup>environment</sup>nurture controversy about learning

One of the most controversial issue has been nature versus nurture. This is the question of which factors determine an individual's intellectual development or learning.

Nature → way of generation, genetic, material

Nurture → environment

Both played an important role in the life or way of living of an individual.

Advocates of <sup>nature</sup> ~~nature~~ believe that hereditary factors are primary responsible. Hereditary factors are physical and mental characteristics passed from parent to child through genes.

Advocates of "nurture" (environmentalists) believe that extrinsic factors (environmental factors) are primarily responsible.

### Scope

The scope of educational psychology is very broad. There would appear to be fine areas: human growth & development, learning, personality and adjustment, measurement and evaluation and techniques and methods in educational psychology.

### Methods of Educational Psychology

Whereas Educational Philosophy is primarily concerned with the question of what should be done in school, Educational Psychology endeavours to answer the question of how it can be done. The former is interested in the ends, the latter is mainly concerned with the means. An educational philosopher, for

A science employs certain methods or means for the collection of its data or facts. Like other sciences Educational Psychology too employs a number of such methods. A detailed discussion of these methods is not possible in such a small volume as this. However, in the following pages the most salient features of the following prominent methods will be outlined:

- (1) Introspection
- (2) Observation
- (3) Experiment
- (4) Testing
- (5) The Individual Case Study Method

The teacher will himself judge which one of the methods or a combination of them is best suited to a particular type of study in a given field of education.

#### **1. Introspection**

This is the oldest and an almost obsolete method. Introspection literally means "looking within". When one turns to one's own-self and

आत्मनिरीक्षण → Introspection