

Concept of Psychology

Etymologically the word "psychology" has been derived from Greek word "Psyche" which means "Soul" or "Atma" and "logos" which means "talk of" or "study of" or "science of". The derivative meaning of "Psychology" is the "study of soul" or "science of soul".

In order to understand the meaning and nature of Psychology some of the definitions are given below:-

- 1. Psychology as the Science of Soul:** In ancient days, the Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle interpreted Psychology as the science of the soul and studied it as a branch of Philosophy. But soul is something metaphysical. It cannot be seen, observed and touched and we cannot make scientific experiments on soul.
- 2. Psychology as the Science of the Mind:** It was the German philosopher Emmanuel Kant who defined Psychology as the science of the mind. William James (1892) defined psychology as the science of mental processes. But the word 'mind' is also quite ambiguous as there was confusion regarding the nature and functions of mind.
- 3. Psychology as the Science of Consciousness:** Modern psychologists defined psychology as the "Science of Consciousness". James Sully (1884) defined psychology as the "Science of the Inner World". Wilhelm Wundt (1892) defined psychology as the science which studies the "internal experiences". But there are three levels of consciousness – conscious, subconscious and the unconscious and so this definition also was not accepted by some.
- 4. Psychology as the Science of Behaviour:** At the beginning of the 20th century, when psychologists attempted to develop psychology into a pure science, it came to be defined as the science of behaviour. The term behaviour was popularized by J.B. Watson. Other exponents are William Mc Dugall and W.B. Pillsbury. According to R.S. Woodworth, "First Psychology lost its soul, then it lost its mind, then lost its consciousness. It still has behaviour of a sort."

Some of the definitions of Psychology are:

- 1. W.B. Kolesnik** says, "Psychology is the science of human behaviour."
- 2. Skinner** : "psychology is the science of behaviour and experience."
- 3. Crooks and Stein** : "Psychology is the scientific study of the behaviour and mental processes of humans and other animals."
- 4. R.S. Woodsworth** : Psychology is the scientific study of the activities of the individual in relation to the environment."
- 5. William James** in his book *The Principles of Psychology (1890)* defined psychology as the science of mental life.
- 6. Wilhelm Wundt** : "Psychology as the science which studies the internal experience."
- 7. Crow and Crow** : "Psychology is the study of human behaviour and human relationship."

Meaning of Educational Psychology

Educational Psychology is nothing but the application of psychological principles in teaching – learning situations, more particularly to classroom situations. In other words it deals with the human behaviour in educational situations. Educational psychology is one of the branches of psychology to study the behaviour of the learner in relation to his education. As specialized branch of psychology concerns itself with suggesting ways and means of improving the process and products of education, enabling the teacher to teach effectively and the learners to learn effectively with the minimum effort.

It is thus designated as the service of education. It has simplified the tasks and improved the efficiency of the teacher or all those connected in the process and products of education by supplying them with the essential knowledge and skills in much need the same way as science and technology has helped in making possible maximum output through minimum input in terms of time and labour in our day-to-day activities.

It is the scientific study of human behaviour by which it can be understood, predicated and directed by education to achieve goals of life.

Definitions of Educational Psychology

1. **C.E. Skinner:** "Educational psychology is the branch of psychology which deals with teaching and learning".
2. **Crow and Crow:** "Educational psychology describes and explains learning experience of an individual from birth to old age".
3. **Prof. William Clark Trow says,** "Educational psychology is the study of psychological aspects of educational situations".
4. **J.M. Stephens:** "Educational psychology is the study of educational growth and development".
5. **According to E.A. Peel,** "Educational psychology is the science of education."
6. **Woodfolk, A.E defines,** "Educational Psychology is a discipline concerned with understanding and improving the teaching and learning processes; it uses the theories and methods of psychology as well as its own unique theories and methods."
7. **Peter Sandiford defines,** "Educational psychology attempts to define, describe, and explain changes that take place in the individual in their various stages development."

References

Foundation of Education by Dr. Phunu Das Sarma and Dr. Sadhana Goswami.

<https://www.tnteu.ac.in/pdf/library/Psychology/7%20Unit%201%20Introduction%20to%20Educational%20Psychology.pdf>