


# Interest



**Kaji Minhajul Hoque**

***Nazir Ajmal Memorial College of education***



The term interest originates from the Latin word **interesse**, meaning “to be concerned with”

In psychology, interest refers to a positive mental state that energizes attention, motivation, and learning toward a particular object, activity, or idea

Individuals have tendency to choose or select one activity over another or give preference to some specific activity or task.

Interests can be as simple as likes and dislikes, or can be related to selection of career or profession, etc.

Interests provide emotional pleasure and our hobbies are based on interests.



### *Crow and Crow:*

“Interest is the attitude of a person toward a particular object or activity that he or she likes and gives attention to.”

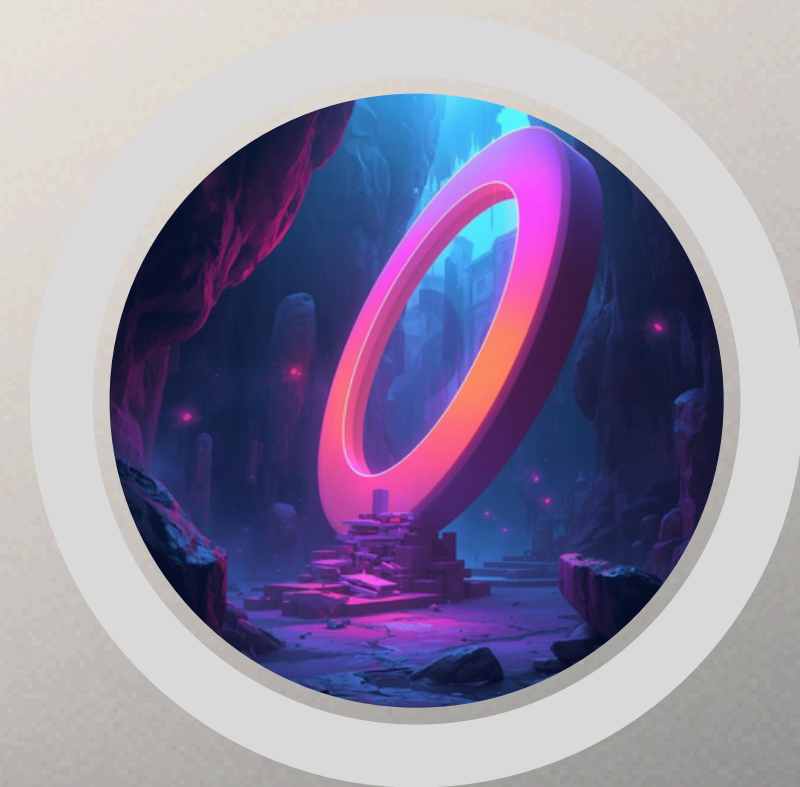
### *Ross:*

“Interest is a feeling that accompanies special attention to some content or object.

### *Drever:*

“Interest is a condition of the mind in which an object or idea arouses curiosity, attention, or emotional involvement.”

In simple terms, interest means the mental state in which a person feels attracted and emotionally connected to a particular activity or object.



# Characteristics of Interest

Interest is a psychological, emotional, and motivational state that energizes learning and behavior. It is not fixed; it changes with experience, environment, and development.

## 1. Dynamic in Nature

Interest is not static; it changes with age, experience, and circumstances. A child interested in toys may later become interested in sports or academics.

## 2. Closely Related to Attention

Interest and attention are interdependent. When we are interested in something, our attention naturally focuses on it. Likewise, attention helps to sustain interest for a longer period.

## 3. Emotional Component

Interest always involves emotion. The feeling of pleasure, excitement, or satisfaction keeps a person engaged in an activity.



#### **4. Selective Nature**

Interest makes a person selective in perception-one notices and remembers things related to their interests while ignoring others.

#### **5. Based on Needs and Desires**

Interests arise from personal needs, motives, and desires. For instance, a student interested in becoming a doctor pays more attention to biology.

#### **6. Developed Through Experience**

Interest can be developed, cultivated, and modified through experience, exposure, and proper guidance. Teachers play a vital role in shaping learners' interests.

## 7. Motivating Force

Interest acts as a strong motivator that drives learning and performance. It leads to active participation and persistence in tasks.

## 8. Individual Difference

Interest varies from person to person. What fascinates one learner may bore another. Hence, teaching methods should cater to diverse interests in the classroom.

- Interest is driven by curiosity toward a subject or activity.
- It varies greatly among different individuals.

## Determinants / Factors Influencing Interest

**Innate Tendencies:** Natural curiosity and individual aptitudes influence interest.

**Home Environment:** Family background, parental encouragement, and exposure shape interests.

**School Environment:** Teacher's personality, teaching methods, and curriculum relevance affect student interest.

**Peer Influence:** Friends and social circles often determine developing interests.

**Previous Experience:** Positive experiences reinforce interest, while negative ones may diminish it.

**Age and Maturity:** Interests evolve as a person grows and matures cognitively and emotionally.

**Socio-cultural Factors:** Cultural values, traditions, and social expectations guide interest formation.

**Success and Achievement:** Success in a task tends to increase interest, while repeated failure can reduce it.

# Types of Interest

## Based on Origin/Source

- Native/Innately Driven Interest: These interests arise from natural tendencies, instincts, or biological needs (e.g., a child's natural interest in play, exploration, or food).
- Acquired/Learned Interest: These are developed through experience, environment, and education (e.g., an interest in a specific sport, literature, or a scientific field).

## Based on Motivation

- Intrinsic Interest (Direct): Interest in the activity or object itself, where the activity is its own reward (e.g., reading a book purely for the joy of reading). This is deep-rooted.
- Extrinsic Interest (Indirect): Interest in an activity that is motivated by an external goal or reward (e.g., studying a difficult subject only to get good grades or a diploma). This is usually temporary.



# Educational Importance of Interest

Interest is central to the learning process. Without it, students lose motivation and learning becomes mechanical. Below are some educational implications of interest:

## **1. Improves Attention and Concentration**

When learners are interested, they give their full attention to the lesson and retain information better.

## **2. Increases Motivation to Learn**

Interest acts as an intrinsic motivator, encouraging students to learn for enjoyment rather than compulsion.

## **3. Enhances Memory and Retention**

Material learned with interest is remembered for a long time because it involves emotional engagement.

## **4. Promotes Active Learning**

Interest encourages participation, questioning, and exploration in classroom activities.



## 5. Aids in Career Guidance

Identifying students' interests helps teachers and parents guide them toward suitable careers.

## 6. Reduces Classroom Boredom

Teaching methods that connect with students' interests make learning enjoyable and reduce disengagement.

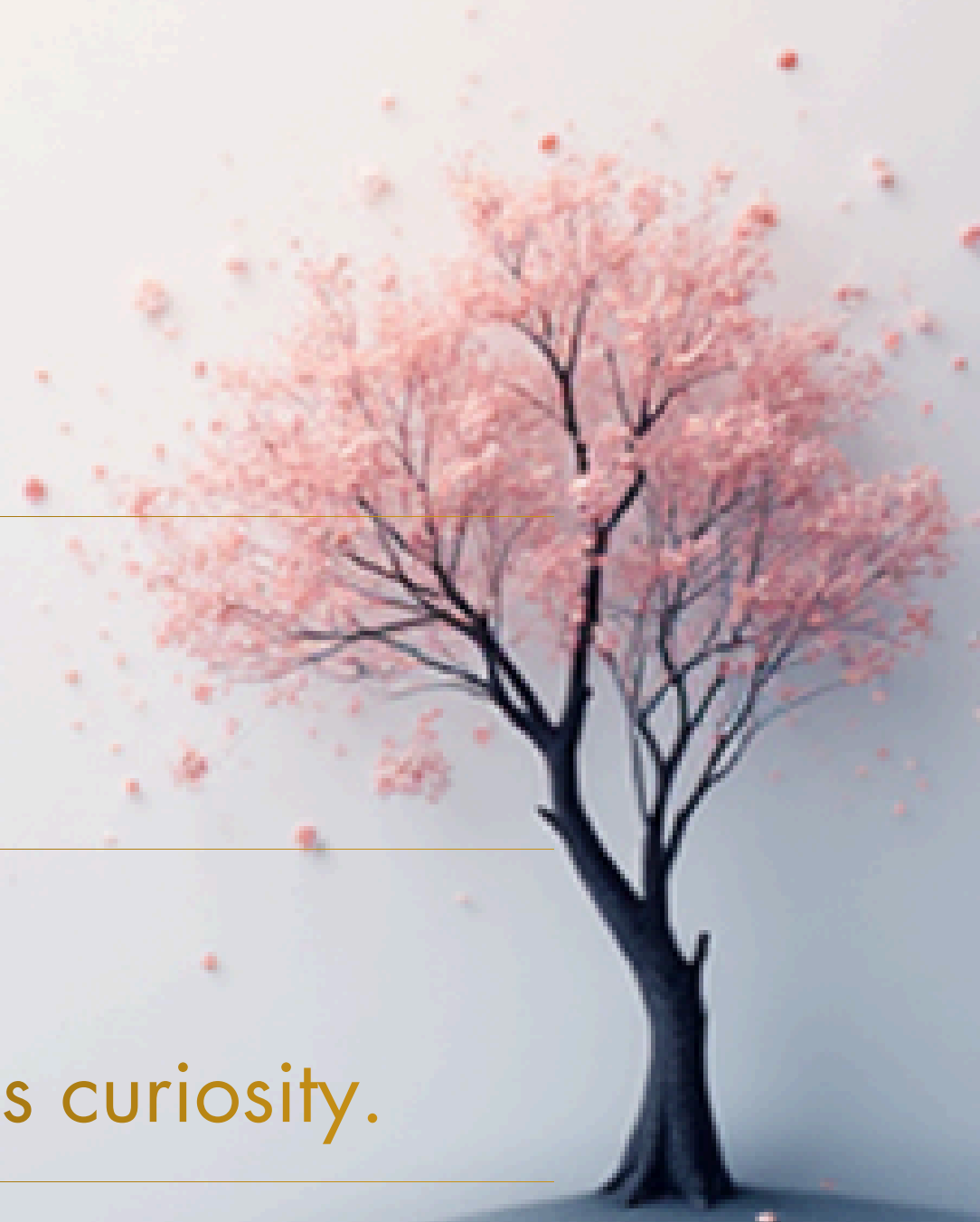
## 7. Fosters Creativity and Critical Thinking

Students with deep interests in a field often show higher levels of **innovation, creativity, and analytical ability.**

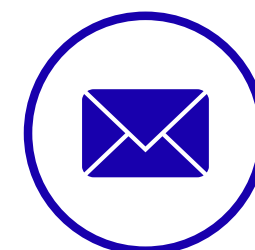
# Role of Teachers in Developing Interest

Teachers play a significant role in nurturing and sustaining students' interests through appropriate strategies:

1. Use variety in teaching methods to prevent monotony.
2. Relate lessons to real-life experiences and student goals.
3. Provide practical and activity-based learning.
4. Recognize and appreciate students' unique talents.
5. Encourage independent learning and exploration.
6. Maintain a positive classroom atmosphere that stimulates curiosity.



Thank  
you



[namce.ap.kaji@gmail.com](mailto:namce.ap.kaji@gmail.com)

