



Educational implications of individual differences

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Abstract

The notion that individuals differ in various abilities capacities and personality characteristics in fact responsible for bringing individual tendencies in Education. This paper explained in a concise way regarding the meaning, types, importance, and educational implication of individual for the benefit of the students and Teachers community.

Keywords: implications, individual, personality, characteristics

Introduction

No two persons are alike in this world. Individuals differ- in mental abilities, physical abilities and personality traits. The individuals not only differ from one another but also differ from one ability to another within the same individual regarding various abilities. Teacher has to pay attention towards individual differences in the class because lack of attention to this fact may create several problems for him. He should adopt; the teaching methods, considering the best, in view of differences of children in the class. The teacher can study individual differences and can help in development of abilities of the child up to the optimum level. Learning is most effective when differences in learner's language, cultural, and social behavior are taken into account. A teacher's challenge is to acknowledge and celebrate the differences among and work to maximize the growth in each child. Individual difference stand for those differences which in their totally, distinguish one individual from another. Heredity, Environment, Sex, Caste, race, maturity and notions are the important causes that generate the individual differences.

Individual Differences in a Classroom and the School

- Children in a class or school come from almost all walks of life with different status, heredity, sex and caste etc.
- In India, there has been no restriction on admission of students in a school. Anyone who can afford to pay fees and bear the expenses of education can get admission, this tendency. Creates more individual differences.
- The teacher is thus faces with a problem of adopting his teaching according to varied types of students who are found out in his class.

Some Important Differences among Individual, Related to Education

In a typical class the following types of individual differences may be observed by a teacher.

- **Physical differences:** Children of different types of physique may be found studying in the same class. We may find tall and short children, fat and thin children, strong and weak children, healthy and unhealthy children studying in the same class. The nature, interests, needs and psychology of these children may

be different from each other.

- **Mental or intellectual Differences:** Intelligence is considered to be purely an inherited trait that solely depends upon intelligence of the predecessors of the individual. Children may differ in respect of intelligence. Problems of gifted, dull, and feeble minded may be source of worry for the teacher.
- **Age Differences:** Age differences are of great importances in school because these differences may be able to affect the schoolwork of the students.
- **Health Differences**
 - a. There is no relationship between physical health and intellectual development. However, it does influence adversely the mental efficiency and achievement.
 - b. Attitude of the society towards children of different physique might show its effect upon their learning, adjustment and achievement.
- **Race and Nationality Differences**

We often heard (1) 'Russians are tall and stout' (2), 'Ceylonese are short and slim' (3) 'Germans have no sense of humour' (4) 'Yellow races are cruel and revengeful' (5) Americans are hearty and frank (6) 'Indians are timid and peace loving' (7) The white possess superior intellect than the black'

- **Sex Differences**

Men and women differ in many respects. Girls are superior to boys during the period before adolescence in many respects. After Adolescence boys cover up their deficiency and sometimes supersede the girls. Intelligence as a global capacity, does not give any marked difference but difference may be observed with regard to specific abilities. On the average man has been observed superior, in reasoning and in ability to detect similarities, in skill with numbers and understanding of spatial relationship. On the average the women's superiority is shown in memory, language and aesthetic comparisons, in verbal aptitude and memory, in large vocabulary, fast reading and in sentence completion etc. The observed differences may be due to the different roles assigned to men and women in society.

- **Personality Differences**

Personality differences bring out differences in intellectual

pursuits and achievements. Differences in the following may show their effects, Interests in one activity than the other. Goals and ambitions- high/low, Attitudes- favorable/unfavorable, Habits good/poor. Traits- aggression-humble, social-unsocial-anti social honest-dishonest, critical-sympathetic, Aptitude- Talent.

Difference in Interest

- Some individuals may have interest, in literary and some may have in scientific area.
- The individual may have interest in one or more than one interest area of Humanitarian, Persuasive, - Artistic, Musical, Executive, agricultural, Political, Religious etc.
- Teacher should consider the interest areas of the pupils and should guide them accordingly.

Temperamental Differences

Different pupils may have different types of temperament. They may be aggressive quarrelsome, gentle and so on.

Educational Implications of Individual Differences

Individual differences serve as the foundation of effective Teaching- Learning process. They are said “the source of one’s most pronounced achievements, fullest self-realization and greatest social use fullness.”

- Teacher should keep in mind that individual differs- the education will also differ for them.
- Teacher should teach in the class according to the individual and his teaching should be based according to various age and intelligence level.
- Teacher should give due regard in the content and methods of Education to the individual difference.
- Teacher should adjust his teaching according to the trait relationships or to the nature of individual.
- Teacher can make homogeneous groups according to the level of ability and can plan his teaching more effectively.
- Teacher should adjust his teaching to the special interests of the boys of various stages of development.
- Teacher should give the assignments to the students of different difficulty level according to the differences in individual’s abilities, personality traits, previous education and experience etc. Factors must be taken into consideration.
- Individual differences are of great importance in teaching, Educational, Vocational and personal Guidance and in clinical and personal hygiene field.

Hints for Suitable Curriculum Contribution

- Provide opportunities to the children in keeping with their abilities so that they may get success in learning.
- Construct reliable tests for the measurement of abilities.
- Provide desirable Physical and social environment so that children may get a chance for the development of their native ability.
- Arrange for flexible curriculum to fulfill the needs of the child and based on his interests.
- Make use of adequate materials aids to fully motivate the child.

Conclusion

To conclude in the word of skinner “A Knowledge of the nature of individual difference is essential, if the teacher is to improve the education that all children receive, regardless of their ability. Thus, the problem of individual differences can be tackled with multi-dimensional tasks. As teachers, we must be aware of students’ individual differences such as differences in culture, ethnicity, intelligence, Languages, learning style etc. It is because it may enhance student’s understanding or Limit their opportunity to learn from the school environment. These factors should be taken into consideration when we plan teaching and learning process in the classroom.

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