

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH

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SWAYAM COURSE ON “STUDENT PSYCHOLOGY”

WEEK-2: STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

INTRODUCTION

In this segment, we are going to learn about the Psychological Characteristics of Students. In the teaching model, emphasis was given on Knowing about the Entering behavior of Learners. Knowledge of the characteristics of learners is very important for teachers in the teaching learning process. And most importantly we are dealing with technology savvy people who are referred to as digital natives.

Before we list the characteristics, it is important for us to understand the term ‘Personality’.

PERSONALITY

Personality is the brand image of the Individual. Personality is Qualities of a person which differentiates himself from another person. Personality is Qualities present in a person which is responsible for his success/failure.

Personality is the sum of the Physical, Cognitive, Emotional and Social Characteristics of an Individual.

Behaviour is the mirror image of the personality. Personality is the brand image of the individual. It is made up of Character, Behavioural traits and Attitude. It is an Element of success. There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, that's your own self

ADOLESCENCE

There are **six** stages of human life. The six stages are namely Infancy, Babyhood, Early childhood, Late Childhood, Adolescence and Adulthood. The Word “Adolescence” is derived from the Latin word “Adolescere” meaning 'to grow up'.

THE PHASES OF ADOLESCENCE

The three phases of Adolescence are:

- Early (13-15)

- Middle (15-18)
- Late (18-21)

ADOLESCENT FEATURES

- Crucial and critical period
- Process of growing to maturity
- A period of Stress and Storm
- A period of difficult adjustments
- Often characterized by outburst of energy
- A movement from
 - Organization (Childhood) to
 - Disorganization (Adolescence) to
 - Re Organization (Adulthood)

STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

The adolescent student also has a personality. In this segment we are focusing on the learners, who are in the middle and late adolescent period (18-21 years).

The four student characteristics are

- Physical Characteristics
- Cognitive Characteristics
- Emotional Characteristics
- Social Characteristics

Let us examine each of these characteristics in detail.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Rapid Intense Growth
- Height and Weight
- Internal Organs
- Bone and Muscles
- Nutrition
- Personal Calendar
- Inconsistent and Variable Growth

COGNITIVE CHARACTERISTICS

- Increased ability of understanding
- Increased ability to generalize the facts
- Increased ability to deal with abstraction/abstract concepts
- Development of Memory and Imagination
- Ability of Problem solving
- Increased ability to communicate with others
- Ability to make decisions
- Intellectual development reaches its peak

EMOTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Complexity
- Labile Emotions (because of complexity)
- Development of Abstract Emotions
- Emotional Feelings are Widened
- Capacity to Bear Tension
- Capacity of Sharing Emotions
- Loyalty Expands
- Realism in Emotional Experiences
- Ability to Review Hopes and Aspirations
- Tolerance of Loneliness
- Learns to Externalize Feelings
- Increased Compassion

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Explore their personal identity
- Peer relationship takes over
- Possibility of negative peer pressure
- Often test teacher's and parent's rules and boundaries (Self Autonomy)
- Self-centered attitudes
- Personal / Recreational Interests
- Vocational Interests

STUDENT TYPES

1. Compliant
2. Anxious Dependents
3. Independent
4. Heroes
5. Snipers
6. Attention Seekers
7. Discouraged Workers
8. Silent Students

DIFFICULTIES IN THE CLASS ROOM

- Poor Interest in Academics (most difficult issue for the teacher)
- Poor Concentration
- Easy Distractibility
- Excessive Sleepiness
- Lack of Motivation & Direction
- Fall in Academic Standards & Skipping Classes
- Rebelliousness
- Mood Changes
- Sensitivity to Criticism & Correction
- Bullying

