

# **Psychology of Learning**

**(EDTE 202)**

**Session 1**

**22nd September 2021**

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# Welcome Message

- Dear student, you are warmly welcome to the **EDTE 202: Psychology of human learning** course.
- This is an interesting course designed mainly for educators to equip them with knowledge on how human beings learn.
- In this course, you will learn about how/why people become accustomed to a particular behaviour, how a learned behaviour can be modified and how transfer of learning takes place.
- This knowledge will help you to improve your own learning experiences and those of your learners.



# Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- explain learning and discuss the factors that affect it,
- examine the principles of learning in influencing behavioural change,
- analyse behavioural, cognitive, social and constructivist learning,
- examine the educational implications of each of the learning theories,
- apply self-regulation in their daily lives and learning situations.



# Course Information

- Delivery Mode: Virtual (Zoom, Sakai, Telegram)
- Course duration: 6 weeks
- Number of Lectures: 12 Sessions (2 per week)
- Lectures start: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 2021
- Lectures end: 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2021



# Course Assessment

Assessment in this course has 4 components:

## **Component 1: Interim Assessment 30%**

- There will be 30 multiple choice items covering the units completed on the course outline. The test will be on the Sakai LMS. Date and time will be announced in due course.

## **Component 2: Project/group work 20%**

- Students will be required to work collaboratively on a project. Project topic(s) and groupings will be shared in due course.



# Course Assessment

## **Component 3: Attendance and participation 10%**

- Student attendance and participation will be checked on Zoom, Sakai and Telegram.

## **Component 4: Summative assessment (End of Semester Exam 40%)**

- There will be 40 multiple choice items covering all the units on the course outline. The exam will be on the Sakai LMS.



# Lesson 1

## Topic

# Introduction to Learning



# Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- explain learning (what it is/not),
- differentiate between behavioural and cognitive learning,
- discuss at least 5 factors that affect learning.





# Activity 1: Individual

## What is Learning?

In ONE sentence/your own words, define the  
term **“learning”**



# What is Learning?

## Behaviourist Definition

- **Kimble (1967):** learning refers to a relatively permanent change in behaviour potentiality that occurs as a result of reinforced practice.
- **Relatively permanent:** learning takes time.
- **Change in behaviour:** we compare previous behaviour with new one. Behaviour denotes action/activity.
- **Reinforced practice:** only behaviour changes that result from practice and are rewarded.



# What Learning is NOT

The definition of learning excludes:

- **temporal** behaviour changes e.g. illness, thirst, hunger, fatigue, drugs.
- **More permanent** behaviour changes caused by disease, physiological damage/accident.
- **natural** behaviours e.g. crying, blinking, sucking (reflex behaviours).
- **maturational** processes e.g. walking, talking, aging.



# What is Learning?

## Cognitive Definition

**Burns (1995):** a relatively permanent change in behaviour, which includes both observable activity and internal processes such as thinking, attitudes and emotions.

- **Thinking:** our thought processes (knowledge acquisition)
- **Attitudes:** our dispositions, positive/negative
- **Emotions:** our feelings (affective learning)



# Implications of Learning

- Learning results from **observation, practice, training or an experience.**
- Learning is a **process**
- Learning is an **ability hidden within the individual**
- Learning can be **overt or covert.**
- Learning is an **interaction with experience.**
- Learning can take place at the **cognitive, affective and psychomotor levels.**



# Activity 2: Pair Work

## Learning or Not?

**Which of the following can be classified as a learning process?**

1. A young child takes her first steps.
2. An adolescent male feels a strong attraction to certain females.
3. A child becomes anxious when he sees the doctor coming with a needle.
4. During studies a student decides to ignore the sound of moving vehicles.



# Answers to Activity 2

1. Learning to walk (example 1) is mostly a developmental progression but also depends on experience with crawling and other activities.
2. The adolescent sex drive (example 2) is not learned, but learning shapes individuals' choices of desirable partners.
3. Learned behavior. The child has learned to associate the needle with pain, and his body reacts emotionally when he sees the needle.
4. A form of learning (**Habituation**).



# Activity 3: Group Work

## Factors Affecting Learning

In your groups, list **FIVE** factors that affect Learning.





# Factors Affecting Learning

- Motivation (intrinsic and extrinsic)
- Intelligence
- Maturation
- The physical condition of the learner
- Readiness (mindset) & maturation
- Active practice and repetition
- Distributed learning/chunking
- The content of the material
- Teaching methods and aids
- Nature of the educator
- Feedback of results
- Socio-economic factors
- Parent's education
- School structure and resources
- Language barriers
- Teacher guidance
- Peer influence
- Acquired deformities
- Recency
- Practice



# Research with Animals

About 7-8% of psychological research involves the use of animals.

**Why do you think animals are used in research?**



# Questions for Reflection

- Is the possession of knowledge the same as learning? If YES, why? If NO, why not?
- Are the words **learn** and **study** the same?

*Learn* means "to gain knowledge or skill by studying" and *study* means "to read, memorize facts, attend school, etc."

- What is the difference between intentional and unintentional (accidental) learning?
- Why is it that no two people learn the same way?
- Animals are normally used for psychological research what are the benefits and limitations?



# Take Home Tasks

**1. Group the factors that affect learning under the following sub-headings:**

- a. Heredity factors
- b. Environmental factors
- c. Other factors.

## **Sakai Forums Discussion**

2. a. What is learning theory?
- b. Explain 3 ways in which knowledge about learning theories can help your work as a teacher.

