

School of Education

Course Code : BEDU2004

Course Name: Knowledge and Curriculum

Psychological Foundation of Curriculum



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Program Name: B. Ed.

*"No two
persons are
exactly alike."*

PSYCHOLOGY

- Deals with **how** humans **learn** and **behave**

- Since the **main goal of curriculum** is to bring about **learning**, therefore, curriculum developers need to know **how humans learn**.

Why?

So that they can **incorporate psychological principles** when they design, develop and implement curriculum.

LEARNERS

- John Locke – compared children's minds to **blank slates** or **tabula rasa**

LEARNERS

- Today, we know that children are **not empty vessels** but come to school with many **different experiences, prior knowledge and expectations**

MAJOR THEORIES OF CURRICULUM

- **BEHAVIORISM**
- **COGNITIVISM**

BEHAVIORISM & CURRICULUM

BEHAVIORISM

- Focuses on **stimulus response & reinforces**
- Studies **conditioning, modifying, or shaping behavior through reinforcement and rewards**

KEY PLAYERS

- **THORNDIKE** – Connectionism
- **PAVLOV (AND WATSON)** – Classical Conditioning
- **SKINNER** – Operant Conditioning
- **BANDURA** – Observable Learning and Modeling
- **GAGNÉ** – Hierarchical Learning

BEHAVIORISM & CURRICULUM

- Curriculum should be **organized** so students **experience success** in master the subject matter.
- Behaviorist are very **prescriptive** and **diagnostic** in their approach.
- Rely on **step-by-step structured methods** for learning.
- Behaviorism in curriculum includes careful **analyzing and sequencing** of the learners' needs and behaviors.

COGNITIVISM & CURRICULUM

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

- Focus on how individuals **process information**
- Emphasis on **memory** (storage, retrieval, types)
- **Learner** is the key player

KEY PLAYERS

- **MONTESORI**- Sensory Stimulation
- **PIAGET**- Cognitive Development Stage
- **VYGOTSKY**- Zone of Proximal Development

COGNITIVISM & CURRICULUM

- Cognitive approach constitutes a **logical method** for organizing and interpreting learning
- Rooted in the **tradition** of subject matter
- Educators been trained in **cognitive approaches**
- **Schools** are the place for cognitive learning.
- Students should not afraid to ask, not afraid of being wrong, not afraid of not please teacher, and not afraid of taking risk and playing with ideas.

REFERENCES

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