



Unit – II

Lesson -2

MOTIVATION AND LEARNING

impossible

Unit – III Motivation

Level of Aspiration, Learning: Theories of Learning and its Educational Implications

Level of Aspiration

Introduction

- LOA Theory is a motivational theory that suggests an individual's expectations and aspirations are influenced by their environment.
- Origin:** Developed by psychologist Robert K. Merton in 1957 as part of his general theory of social structure and anomie.
- Application:** LOA Theory has been applied across various fields including **psychology, sociology, and economics** to understand and explain human behavior.

Meaning of Aspiration

- The word 'aspire' is derived from the Latin, ad (to) **spirare** (to breathe) meaning to strive or literally to go after something desired.
- In modern terminology, it refers to an ambition, an objective, or a desire. In effect, it refers to something worthwhile pursuing.

Definition of aspiration

- "Level of aspiration as an indication of an individual's true inner aims and expectations." — Hoppe

D.Jeyasekaran,
Asst. Professor, SCCE



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Level of Aspiration

Assumptions of LOA Theory.

- ◎ **Merton's Theory:** Robert K. Merton developed LOA Theory as part of his broader theory on social structure and anomie. He suggested that people's aspirations and expectations are shaped by their environment.

Aspirations and Environment:

An individual's level of aspiration depends on factors like social class, education, and other environmental influences.

High vs. Low Aspirations:

- ◎ **High aspirations:** People strive to achieve big goals, but may feel frustrated if societal barriers prevent success.
- ◎ **Low aspirations:** Easier to achieve, but can lead to a sense of apathy or lack of motivation.



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Level of Aspiration

Adjustment of Aspirations:

People adjust their aspirations based on their social environment:

- ⦿ Surrounded by high achievers → **increase aspirations.**
- ⦿ Surrounded by people with lower aspirations → **decrease aspirations.**

Implications of LOA Theory

Influence of Environment:

LOA Theory suggests that individuals' aspirations are largely shaped by their environment.

- ⦿ **For Education:**

Schools should create an environment that motivates students to set and achieve high goals.



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Conclusion

- ◉ LOA Theory is a valid and useful way **to understand human motivation and behavior.** It suggests that **an individual's expectations and aspirations** are largely **determined by their environment**, and that individuals may adjust their level of aspiration in response to their environment.



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⦿ For Education:

Schools should create an environment that motivates students to set and achieve high goals.

- ⦿ Increases self confidence
- ⦿ Helps in setting goals realistically.
- ⦿ Avoid failure

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Unit – III

Lesson - 3

MOTIVATION AND LEARNING



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Theories of Learning

Introduction:

- ❖ Learning is an adaptive function by which our nervous system changes in relation to stimuli in the environment, thus changing our behavioural responses and permitting us to function in our environment.
- ❖ Learning is a critical mental function in humans, animals and artificial cognitive systems.
- ❖ It relies on the acquisition of different types of knowledge supported by perceived information.
- ❖ It leads to the development of new capacities, skills, values, understanding and preferences.

Basic Types of Learning Theories

There are five basic types of learning theory: behaviorist, cognitive, constructivist, social, and experiential. This section provides a brief introduction to each type of learning theory.

Cognitive Learning theory

Jean Piaget

- Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development suggests that children move through four different stages of intellectual development which reflect the increasing sophistication of children's thoughts.
- Child development is determined by biological maturation and interaction with the environment.



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Theories of Learning

What Is Behaviorism?

- Behaviorism is a theory of learning based on the idea that all behaviors are acquired through conditioning, and conditioning occurs through **interaction with the environment**.
- Behaviorists believe that our actions are shaped by environmental stimuli.

History of Behaviorism

- Behaviorism was formally established with the 1913 publication of **John B. Watson's** classic paper, "Psychology as the Behaviorist Views It."
- He is considered the father of behaviorism

Methodological behaviorism

- Methodological behaviorism** is a philosophical theory that focuses on studying behavior and observable actions of individuals while disregarding any mental processes, emotions, or subjective experiences that may be occurring internally. This approach asserts that psychology should be solely concerned with observable behavior and not with introspection or mental states.

Radical Behaviorism

- Radical behaviorism is rooted in the theory that behavior can be understood by looking at one's past and present environment and the reinforcements within it, thereby influencing behavior either positively or negatively. This behavioral approach was created by the psychologist B.F. Skinner.



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Theories of Learning

The constructivist theory

The constructivist theory is based around the idea that learners are active participants in their learning journey; knowledge is constructed based on experiences.

Constructive learning theories: Dewey, Piaget, Vygotsky, Gagne, and Bruner.

The Humanistic theory of learning

- ❖ The humanistic theory of learning emphasizes personal growth, self-esteem, and the full development of an individual's potential.
- ❖ It considers not only intellectual aspects but also emotional, psychological, creative, social, physical, and spiritual dimensions.

Humanistic theory of learning: Abraham Maslow and Carl Rogers.

