

## Causes of Individual Differences

The following are the chief causes of individual differences

1. Influence of Heredity: According to psychologists McDougall, Pearson, Galton, etc. heredity is the chief of individual differences. A person gets his body, shape, complexion, etc. from heredity. The parental seed has its influence not only on his body but also on his mental traits. Often, the children of sharp parents are sharp and of dull parents, dull. According to Munn, the life of all people begin the same way, then what is the cause of it being different? It is due to different heredity, Heredity has its influence on the person, but it would be a fallacy to say that only heredity is the cause of individual differences. If it were so, the children of the same parents would not be different.

2. Influence of Environment: Environment also has influence on individual differences. Environment is of two types: (a) natural environment, and (b) social environment. The people in the warm climate are dark, lazy and unhealthy; while those in the cold climate are fair, laborious and intelligent. Thus, the social environment also has its influence. A person has his lifestyle, conduct and behaviour according to the society that he lives in. If a child from Hindi belt goes to live among Sindhis, Tamils or Bengalis, his lifestyle, language too changes accordingly. Thus, the neighbourhood brings individual differences in the child.

3. Influence of Race and Nationality: Individual differences depend on racial and national basis also. A person has the characteristics of the race and nation in which is he born. A child born in a Brahman or Kshatriya family has inclination for studies and martial activities. The traits that a Hindu child begets, are different from those of a Muslim or Christian child. In the same way, difference found in the conduct, nature, interest, physical and mental condition and personality is due to the difference in the country.

4. Influence of Economic Condition and Education: Individual differences are also found due to economic condition and education. Parents' economic condition, lifestyle, occupation and education has deep impact on the children. The personality development of the rich, high lifestyle and educational families is good, while those of poor, illiterate families is not and they are unable to learn good habits. As a result, differences in found them though intelligence is same in them.

5. Influence of Sex: Physical and mental differences are found in boys and girls, Girls attain maturity one or two years prior to boys. The girls are soft, kind, affectionate, shy and peaceful, while the boys are harsh, courageous, angry, clever, brave and skillful. The boys have more capacity for physical work, arithmetical ability and intensity of imaginations, while the girls are better in memory, art abilities and domestic tasks.