

Educational Implications /importance of Individual Differences

The individual differences of the children have important place in education. Modern psychology has proved that every child is different from another. Every child has his capacities, abilities, powers and interests. So, their education should be conducted keeping in view their abilities. The following factors should be kept in view while arranging education for children:

1. Classification : Different students of a class have physical, mental, emotional and social differences besides differences in age. So, it is not proper to classify them according to traditional method. They should be classified on the basis of mental differences into homogeneous groups. Each class can be divided into three groups: superior, normal and dull children. Besides intelligence, chronological age, emotional attitude, social maturity and interest should also be paid attention while classifying.
2. Size of the Class: If the number of students is more in the class, it becomes difficult for the teacher to manage their educational needs according to their individual differences. So, the size of the class should be small. According to Ross. the number of children under each teacher should be so small as he can individually know them, without it he may ask such children for such activities which are impossible for them to do.
3. Curriculum : Curriculum should be constructed according to individual differences. Prescribing common curriculum for all children would amount to discouraging dull children who will lag behind further, while a genius child would not get his mental satisfaction. So the curriculum should be flexible which can be changed ac to the interests of the children, and it should comprise of such subjects from which a child can choose according to his desire.
4. Teaching Methods: Teaching methods should be used according to individual differences. A superior child learns faster than a dull child, so there should be a difference in the teaching method utilised for them. In the present times, several individual teaching methods have been propounded. The Dalton Plan, Project method, Winnetka plan, etc. are the teaching methods which keep individual differences in view while teaching.
5. Home Assignment: The children should be given homework according to their individual differences. It is not justified to give assignment equally. It results in creating spare time for the superior children while the dull children copy from superior children. Besides, the family circumstances should also be kept in view while giving homework.

6. Physical Differences: Education should be arranged on the basis of physical differences of the children. The audio-visually impaired children should be given seat in the front. The physically weak children should not be given much work and the handicapped children should be treated sympathetically.

7. Sex Differences: There are differences in boys and girls from physical, mental, social and emotional viewpoints. They are different in interests, tasks and needs. So, education should be arranged according to sex difference. The scholars say in this regard that both of them can be taught the similar subjects, but there should be a difference in intermediate classes.

8. Vocational Guidance: Individual differences have special significance in vocational selection. Different occupations require different physical, mental and personality traits. So it is the duty of the teacher to help the students choose occupations on the basis of their individual differences. The students should get the occupation that they are worth for.

Thus, we can see that the teacher can benefit the students by knowing about their individual differences.