

Human Development and Learning

Maj/B.Eds-104

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Unit 8: Human Learning



Learning

- Learning is change in behavior.
- It is the process of acquisition of knowledge, skills, values and attitude.
- It leads to a relatively permanent change that is also gradual.
- Resulting from practice, repetitions and experience.
- According to Crow and Crow “Learning is the acquisition of knowledge, habits and attitudes. It involves new ways of doing things, and it operates in an individuals’ attempt to overcome obstacles or to adjust to new situations.”



General Characteristics of Learning

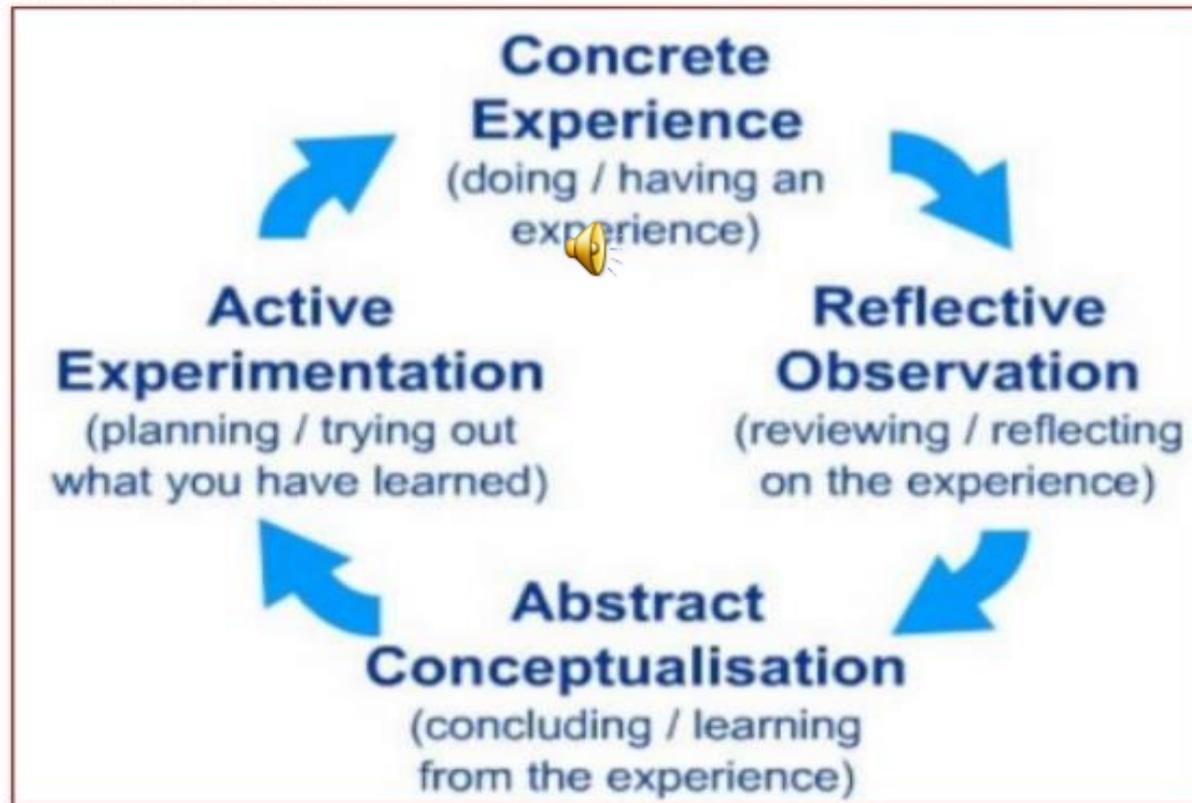
1. **Learning is Adjustment:** Learning involves adjustment of the individual to his environment. The individual must learn to adjust himself to the changes that take place around him.
2. **Learning is Growth:** Learning must result in the growth of the child. An immature child is developed into a mature person through the process of learning.
3. **Learning is Organizing Experience:** Learning is not like adding one experience to the other it is rather, organizing the new experience with the old ones, thus giving rise to a new form of behaviour. Thus, learning involves the proper organizing of experiences in manner.
4. **Learning is Purposeful:** The more intense the purpose of the individual, the more rapid the learning. Lack of purpose in learning will hamper learning. Thus, purposeful learning is always more rapid and permanent.

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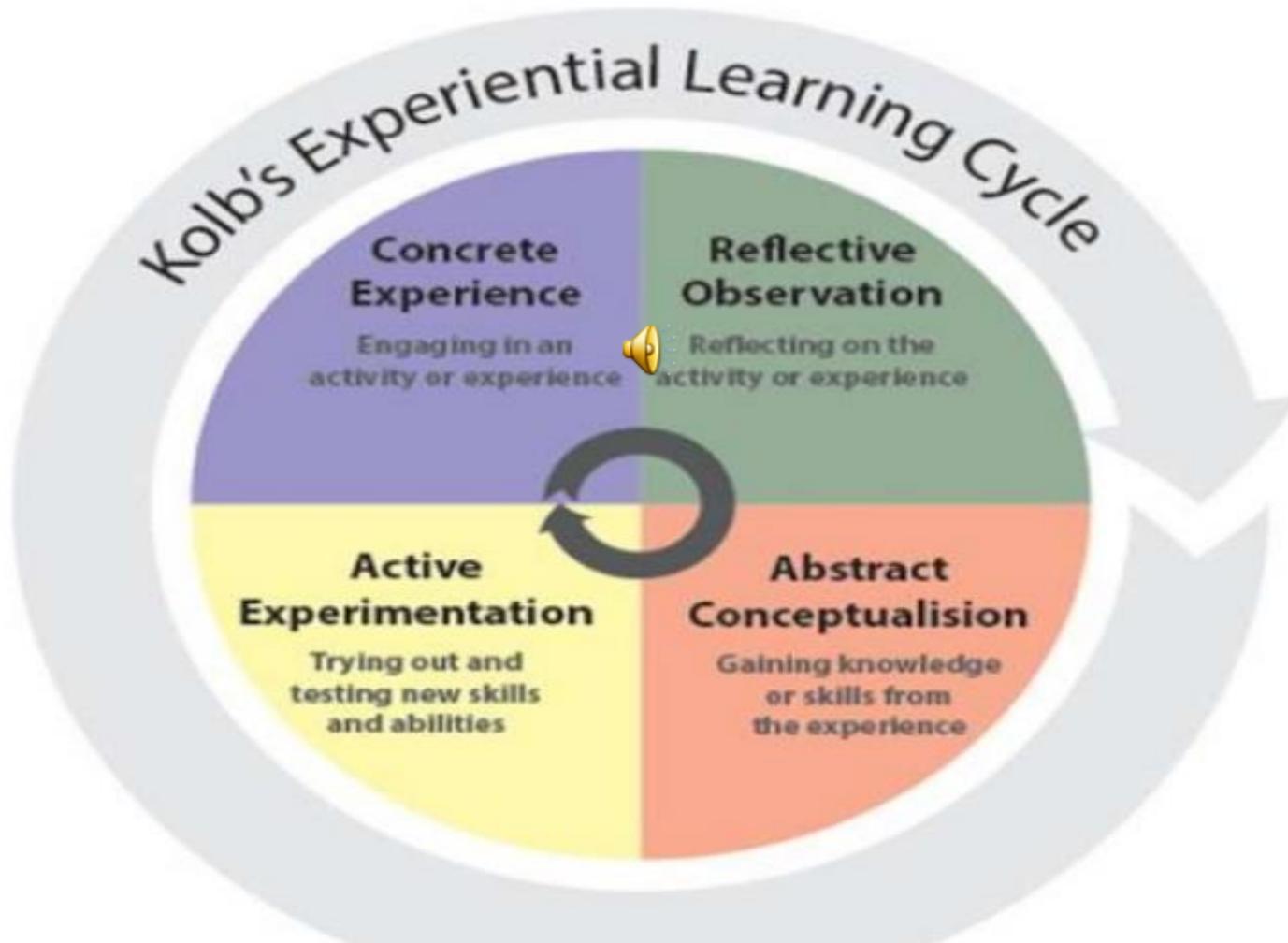
5. Learning is Active. Better learning will take place only if the learner is actively engaged in the learning process. Thus, active participation of the pupils is essential in the learning process.
6. Learning is intelligent and Creative: Learning involves an intelligent interpretation of the situation, and some selectivity in the response. This necessarily involves intelligent and creative thinking. 
7. Learning Affects the Conduct of Learners: Learning affects individuals to adjust himself to the environment. This is brought about through some sort of change and modification of one's behaviour. Thus the behaviour or conduct of the individual undergoes change on account of learning.
8. Learning is the Product of the Environment: Learning is essentially an adaptation and adjustment to the environment.

Process of Learning

Kolb's (1984) 'Experiential Learning Style Theory' is typically represented by a **four STAGES learning cycle** in which the learner 'touches all the bases'.



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Factors Affecting Learning

- **Psychological Factors**

1. Readiness
2. Interest
3. Intelligence
4. Motivation
5. Attitude
6. Feelings frustration
7. Fear of failure
8. Ability
9. Individual difference



Conti...

- **Physiological/Biological Factors**

1. Maturity
2. Tiredness

- **Environmental Factors**

1. Learner Beliefs
2. Social Expectations
3. Cultural Demands
4. Family Background
5. Achievement
6. Physical Condition



Thorndike's Laws of Learning

- Laws of Learning as given by Thorndike are:
 1. Law of Readiness
 2. Law of Exercise
 3. Law of Effect



1. Law of Readiness

- This law emphasizes the importance of readiness to learn. “When a person feels ready to learn or to act, he learns or acts, more effectively and with  greater satisfaction than when not ready”. This implies that the learner must be mentally prepared to learn. This emphasizes the importance of motivation in learning.

Educational Implications

1. Arouse child's readiness to learn, Herbart, emphasized that the appreciative masses must be brought to the forefront before any learning takes place.
2. The law calls upon the  teacher to motivate the child before he undertakes any teaching work.
3. The curricular activities should be according to the child's mental level of maturity. This will ensure readiness as well as arouse curiosity for new things to be learnt.

2. Law of Exercise

- This law implies that learning takes place by exercising, i.e. by doing or by actively participating in the performance. We learn what we do, and we do not learn what we do not do.

Educational Implications

1. If learnable acts are repeated, they become habit.
2. Bad habits can be eradicated. It is believed that if the children are made to practice consciously their bad habits, they automatically tend to leave them.
3. Forgetting can be delayed.
4. Skills like typing and athletics can be developed to the maximum.

3. Law of Effect

- This law implies that if our efforts are accompanied by a feeling of achievement or satisfaction, we are further inspired to learn, and therefore, effective  learning takes place, if our efforts are not accompanied by a feeling of satisfaction, not much of real learning will take place.

Education Implications

1. Children get to form good habit and attitude by associating with reward, satisfaction and praise.
2. Undesirable attitudes or acts of behaviour can be removed by associating them with unsatisfying desirable condition. 
3. The acts of rewarding and punishing take this law into consideration.
4. Interest is directly related to this law. Children get interested in things which bring pleasant results.

Transfer of Learning

- Transfer of learning is the ability to apply knowledge learned in one context to new contexts.
- Transfer of learning occurs when the learner 
 - recognizes common features among concepts, skills, or principles;
 - links the information in memory; and
 - sees the value of utilizing what was learned in one situation in another.

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- Knowledge of French may help student learn Spanish
- Learning to drive a car helps a person to later drive a truck
- Learning mathematics prepares students to study physics
- Learning to get along with siblings may prepare one for getting along better with others