

Education-UG-2nd Semester (EDNHC-3)

Psychological Foundation of Education

Unit IV:Personality

Personality-Meaning

Personality is that pattern of characteristic thoughts, feelings, and behaviours that distinguishes one person from another and that persists over time. It is the sum of biologically based and learnt behaviour which forms the person's unique responses to environmental stimuli.

Personality-Etymology

The word 'personality' is derived from a Latin word '*persona*', which means 'mask'. Significantly, in the theatre of the ancient Latin-speaking world, the mask was used as a plot device to disguise the identity of character; but it rather was a convention employed to represent the character.

'*Persona*' originally denotes the theatrical mask first used in Greek drama and adopted about hundred years before Christ by Romans. These are the personas that people project and display, but also include the inner parts of psychological experience which are collectively called the 'self'. The Greek designation for mask was *prosopon*, a word having vague resemblance to *persona*. Several authorities regard the Latin term as a direct derivation from the Greek.

The term 'personality' in English, 'Personnalite' in French and 'Personlichkeit' in German closely resembles the 'personalitas' of Medieval Latin. In classical Latin '*persona*' alone was used, but its meanings in many respects are equivalent to those of modern that commence with '*persona*' itself.

Personality-Definitions

There are a number of popular definitions of personality, in the sense that there are several different meanings attached to the word as it is used - conversationally.

Perhaps, the commonest of these may be reduced to the formula, "Personality is one's effect upon other people."

Allport (1948) - "Personality is a *dynamic organization* within the individual of those *psycho-physical systems* that determine his *unique adjustment* to his environment."

Gordon (1963) - "Personality consists of the specific contents and consequences of behavior and the processes responsible for these contents and consequences."

Shaffer - "Personality consists of observable behaviour, and it is also individual and intrinsic. It is defined as an individual's typical or consistent adjustment to his environment."

Symonds (1928) - has defined personality as "the portrait or landscape of the organism working - together in all its phases."

Watson (1924) - "Personality includes not only these (Character-conventional) reactions, but also the more individual personal adjustments and capacities as well as their life history. Popularly speaking, one would say that a liar and a profligate had no character, but he may have an exceedingly interesting personality."

Prince (1924) - "Personality is the sum total of all the biological innate dispositions, impulses, tendencies, appetites, and instincts of the individual, and the acquired dispositions and tendencies."

Personality-Nature or Characteristics

- ✚ It is acquired and Inborn - Both.
- ✚ It is Dynamic in nature
- ✚ It is an Organization.
- ✚ It is psycho-physical system.
- ✚ Behavior is determined by it.
- ✚ It is unique.
- ✚ It is the process of adjustment.
- ✚ It can be influenced or determined by others or by environment.

