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## WAYS OF LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION SETTINGS

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### ABSTRACT

**T**he term higher education refers to education at degree level and above. Higher education provides people with an opportunity to reflect on the critical, social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues facing humanity. It contributes to national development through dissemination of specialized knowledge and skills. Education takes place wherever we go. Education system has 'Learner's Centered Approach.' Learning is one of the important human skills. Learning is a permanent change in behaviour through education, training, practice and experience. It is an unending exercise. In conducive environment students can carry out their studies without any stress and can learn better. Learning is an important exercise for acquisition of knowledge. Due to learning, it is possible to enhance the thinking process. Seamless learning is a learning notion that emphasizes the bridging of different learning efforts across a variety of learning settings. There are various learning ways in higher education viz. : observation, critical thinking, making most of lectures, reading and remembering, learning independently, giving an oral presentation, working in Groups, researching Assignments, listening, creativity, stress management, e-learning, etc. Learning ways will assist

to make higher education more creative, productive and effective.

**KEYWORDS:** Attitude, Higher Education, Learning, Process.

### INTRODUCTION:

Learning is a continuous process while training is a short term task. Teaching is a cause while learning is an effect. Learning, teaching and interaction are basic components of an education process. Visual learning is extremely effective in learning. More over online learning has helped in interacting students with teachers in different parts of whole world. Education is something that makes human a rational and civilized – human being. The term quality

education has become mantra of present day education system, whether it is elementary, secondary or higher education. All stakeholders in education system i.e. students, parents, institution management, faculty members, industry and society on the whole, look for high quality education. The main purpose of education is to make all round development of students. In modern time we should choose or develop a "Golden Path" addressing the modern need of education to generate employable human capital as well as achieve the core purpose of the education.

### OBJECTIVES:

The following are objectives of the present study:

- ✦ To know and under



stand foundation of human skills.

- + To study concept of learning.
- + To study learning ways in higher education settings.

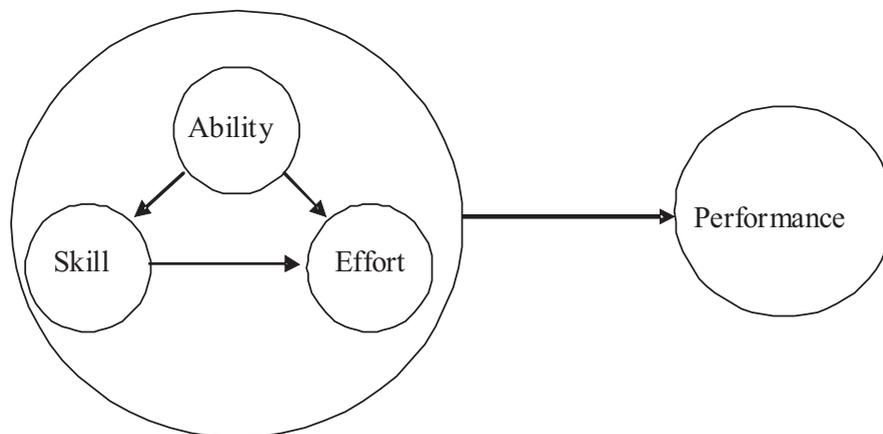
#### DATA BASE:

This paper has been prepared on the basis of secondary sources of data. It consists of reference books, journals and web-site. The data has been collected in order to fulfill the objectives of this paper.

#### FOUNDATION OF HUMAN SKILLS:

The basic foundation of human skills is the individual differences and this foundation is also accepted in education field. Every person differs not only physically, but more so mentally. Therefore, no two persons are similar in behaviour. Not only two individuals differ but even the twins do differ, though they may look identical. That is all are not equally proficient or efficient in a given field that leads to human diversity. Human skills are abilities to work with understand and motivate other people both individually and in groups. A skill is an ability to do something. Skill is learnt through practice. So it is stated that practice makes a man perfect. Skills are not in born, but learnt by imitation and practice. The basic determinant of human nature or behaviour covers wide variety of factors. Such as personality motives, attitudes, values, beliefs and abilities including the presence of perception and learning. It is because a person's behavior is greatly and deeply influenced by his perception of objects and people and his learning experience. Skill refers to the quality of the performance. Ability refers to performance on physical and mental tasks. The perfect performance of a given task demands on the right combination of ability, skill and effort. This can be configures as under:

Figure 1: Performance = A + S + E



There are various human skills such as reading, writing, learning, speaking listening, interviewing, training, decision making and so on.

#### CONCEPT OF LEARNING:

“Learning is a relatively permanent change in the ability to exhibit behaviour, this change occurs as the result of successful or unsuccessful experience.”

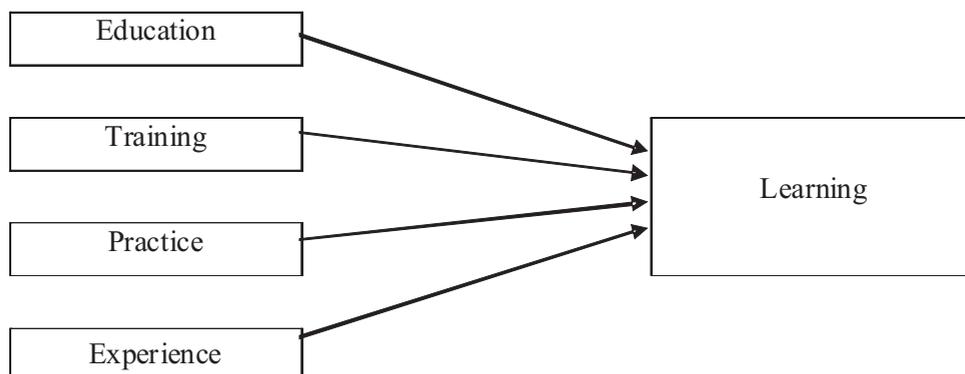
#### This definition of learning has three important components:

The change in behaviour must be relatively permanent to be considered an example of learning.

- ⤴ Learning reflects in the potential for a behaviour. Learning does not automatically lead to a change in behaviour. We must be sufficiently motivated to translate learning into behaviour.
- ⤴ Many examples of behavioural change do not reflect the learning process.
- ⤴ Learning is a basic requirement for most forms of behaviour including behaviour on job. Learning is a

permanent change in behaviour through education, training, practice and experience. This is presented with the help of figure: 2.

**Figure 2: Learning Process**



Learning is not one, simple activity. It takes place at different levels of consciousness and in different ways, in everything we do. Moreover, individual people learn in different ways and have their preferred learning styles. There are many kinds of academic learning and many ways of learning. The seamless learning means that classroom experience and real life experience are equally important to learning. The use of seamless learning settings that have the potential to support lifelong learning anytime and anywhere has become a reality. Due to learning, it is possible to enhance the thinking process. Higher education is the responsible for creation of new knowledge.

Ways of Learning in Higher Education Settings: Today, every one realized that knowledge as a primary resource had begun to impact human endeavour in all walks of life. Higher education is the key to India's future rise as an economic super power. If the country wants to become knowledge super power in the 21st century, this can only be achieved if a large proportion of its working age consists of skilled manpower. Indian higher education system is the third largest higher education systems in the world after USA and china. In India, LPG has created a good synergy and vibration for higher education.

Psychologists have generally assumed that some laws govern the learning of all behaviours. Learning is an important exercise for acquisition of knowledge. The following are some important ways of learning in higher education:

**Observation:** It is the oldest and more reliable way of learning in higher education. Learning by observation is just copying the people around, who are engaged in higher education activities. We keep our teachers as role models.

**Critical Thinking:** Critical thinking is also called as analytical or diagnostic thinking. Critical thinking is one that involves use of scientific approaches or techniques to solve study problems. Critical thinking signifies student's ability to investigate, analyze a study problem logically and objectively. This helps to arrive feasible and optimal solution. Critical thinking is actually refers to an ability to diagnose and evaluate. This helps to the student to establish the "cause & effect" relationship scientifically. Critical thinking is also signifies the ability to break down the problem into convenient components and critically examine its dimensions in the spotlight.

**Making Most of Lectures:** By conducting lectures of highly qualified resource persons and different professional experts for students of higher education along with routine lectures of home faculties create learning more effective. Each lecture has specific value and this will help students to enhance their all round development.

**Reading and Remembering:** Reading and remembering are important tasks of learning in higher education. Reading is the ability to successfully generate meaning from text. Reading is a dominant way in learning. The act of reading is essentially a process of thinking. Reading is a concentrative individual act and it is an involvement. There are two basic methods of improving one's reading viz. training of eyes and training of mind.

Remembering is the stage which occurs after reading. It consists of recalling of what read, and if any

omission it leads to recall what omitted and after modification result will become memorable.

**Learning Independently:** It creates sense of responsibility among the students of higher education when a person attains the maturity stage, he does not remain a mere “Copy Cat” he goes beyond that and he uses his experience a rich fund of knowledge in solving a given problem. Thus, a college student or a post – graduate student remains no more spoon-fed, on the other hand, he sees, analyses, prepares time schedule, as to how much time he has, and how much time he should allot to each topic. This differs from person to person and time to time. The results depend upon right inputs namely correct aiming, high amount of input – quantitative and qualitative. Self experience of learning is the best. In addition, self experience is also the best teacher.

**Giving an Oral Presentation:** Oral presentation develops self confidence among students. It is an exercise of dare and act. It is journey of self-discovery. Journey of discovery means understanding oneself and others. It is an attempt to know strength and weaknesses one has. Oral presentation is a self administered test. It is interpersonal (i.e. communication) skill. The student in the modern age needs to be an efficient and effective communicator of knowledge, skills and attitudes.

**Working in Groups:** It is helpful to students of higher education for developing “togetherness”. Working in groups is becoming practice in many higher education institutions. For management of different curriculum, co-curriculum and extra curriculum events – by students, group formation is a part and parcel of learning. Group may be small or large but this exercise develops team spirit, comprehensive view and co-operation among the students.

**Researching Assignments:** Assignment is a task which develops research attitude among students of higher education. It is possible to evaluate work done by others with proper investigation. Researching assignments finds working style and efforts taken by others for completion of a particular task. Self assignment by way of writing is concise and compact that creates deep impact. Learning to write is learning to think.

**Listening:** Listening is the art of lending your ears to others. Listening is basic to other skills of reading and writing. The first duty of love is to listen. But it is noted that, hearing is not listening. Writing project and so on, it may be a listening test of some colleges and universities. In case of seminars in higher education, there are four techniques of effective listening. These are listen for feelings, follow the feelings, recognize, accept and reflect feelings, and clarify through reflective questions choices facing the person.

Actual listening means students responsibility to see what one wanted to convey thoughts and feelings.

**Creativity:** It is one of the modern ways of learning. Creativity is the process of using intelligence of students of higher education, imagination and skill to develop a new object, process of thought. The field of creativity is really very wide. It covers every aspects of life.

**Stress Management:** Stress in individual is defined as “any inference that disturbs a person’s healthy mental and physical well being”. Fear is the main cause of stress. Conducive environment for learning is very important in higher education. In such as environment students can carry out their studies without any stress and can learn better. In higher education need arises to teach, how to manage stress for effective learning.

**E-Learning:** It is gradually substituting the traditional methods of learning. E-Learning being ‘teacher-less’ delivery mode is becoming an alternative option for higher education. E-Learning can unleash a new horizon for education system. Using the platform of ICT, E-learning can bridge the gap between population and higher education. The need of interactivity in the learning process led to the development of computer based learning materials. i.e. – learning provides increased access, flexibility of content and delivery. E-learning is productive learning, student – directed and diagnostic. E-learning has learner oriented approach and it provides new ways of interaction.

## CONCLUSION:

Institutions of higher learning are responsible for creation of new knowledge by engaging in research and systemic / technological / management innovations. Modern educators are finding ways to turn distraction into interaction. Education system has ‘Learner’s Centered Approach’. Visual learning is extremely effective in learning. The basic foundation of human skills is the individual differences. Skills are not in born but learnt by imitation and practice. Learning is a basic requirement for most forms of behaviour. Learning is not one simple

activity. There are many kinds of academic learning and many ways of learning. As per contemporary view, learning is a cognitive process. Learning is an important exercise for acquisition of knowledge. Learning ways are helpful for active participation of students in learning process and they will assist to make higher education more creative, productive and effective.

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