16 Chapter

Interest

MEANING AND DEFINITION

Interest is a state of curiosity about something. It is a feeling and sense of attraction, liking or bonding towards a particular object or person. Every one has its unique interest. Some people even pursue their career on the basis of their interest. A teacher therefore should take care of the interest of their students so as to make it more strong and recognized. If interests identified and channelized then a children's attention span can also be increased because interest is that domain of the behaviour of a person which attracts him towards any particular thing.

Therefore interest gives person the base of performing any activity and also the outcome of the participation in that particular activity. It can be said that a person takes part in any activity because he is interested in it.

Suppose you are listening song instead of coaching cricket match. If reason asked to you about your choice then your answer may be because you are interested in songs than cricket therefore you are listening songs.

In Latin words interest means it matters or it 'concerns'. Hence anything which is concerned us or to which we are having some concern or which matters to us is what we call interest. A person absorbed in any work completely may be called interested in any task will be seen interest as a mode of behaviour. There individual is having a subjective meaning.

For the word interest Stout used a comprehensive terminology and said it a "affective conative aspect of experience". Drever used the "work instinct interest" for this fundamental affective aspect of all experiences.

Definitions : Everyone possesses some types of interest to which he has some liking. He always gives preference to that particular object. These likings may be permanent or temporary depending on the attitudes and aptitudes. Every individual is selective in his/her interest. As William James stated without selective interest experience is an utter Chaos. Interest alone gives the accent and emphasis light and shade, background and foreground intelligible perspective in a word.

"A thing that interest us is just something that concerns us or matters to us".

—**J.S. Ross**

"Interest may refer to the motivating force that impels us to attend to a person, a thing or an activity or it may be the effective experience that has been stimulated by the activity itself. In other words, interest can be the cause of an activity and result of participation in that activity." —**Crow and Crow**

"Interest is a latent attention, attention is interest in action." —**McDaugall**

"Interest is an active form of some tendency." —**Drever**

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Drever once said while seeing the endering condition that interest is a disposition in its dynamic aspect.

It is evident from the foregoing definitions there is a very intimate relationship between attention and interest. In general the individual performs most of his activities because of his interest in them while he avoids doing those activities in which he has no interest while he is sometimes forced by circumstances into performing an activity which does not interest him.

It is done out of formality. Interest is a tendency which motivates the individual to engage in a particular activity.