

LESSON 11

DEVELOPMENT: IT'S NATURE

SUMMARY

Some noticeable changes take place when an infant slowly grows into a child and then gradually into an adult. But some changes like intensity in the expression of emotions, or the ability to think and reason better, formation of personal values or the capacity to do work independently, although not seen clearly, do bring about a change in the maturity level and competence of a person. This process of bringing about a series of orderly changes, leading towards maturity, is known as **Development**.

Nature of Development

Meaning of Development

Development is a process by which an individual grows and changes throughout its life span.

features of Development	
	It consist of of progressive, coherent and orderly changes
	The changes have a definite direction and lead forward
	The changes are not haphazard but there exists a definite relationship between what exists and what will come next

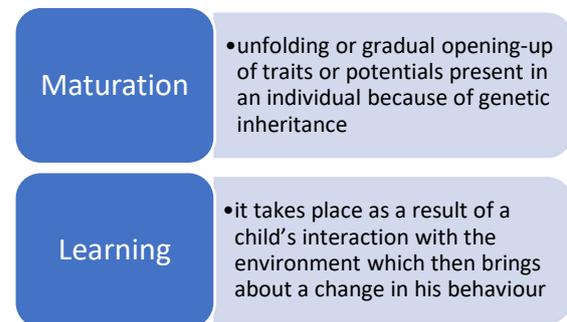
Growth and Development

Growth refers to clearly measurable or specific change which is quantitative in nature such as “growing tall”. Development refers to the qualitative changes unfolding and

increases in capacity. It is not as obvious as growth. Development is a broader term and includes ‘growth’ as one of its aspects.

How Development Occurs?

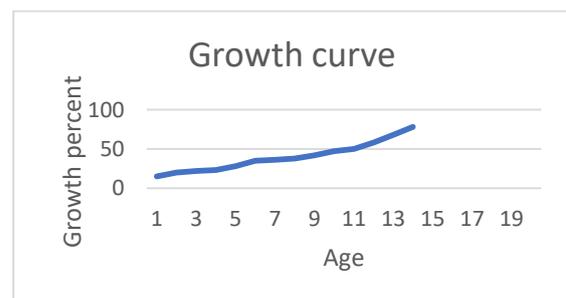
Development occurs through two main processes –



Both maturation and learning occur side by side, each one influencing the other. In fact, environmental learning often promotes maturation. It may be concluded that maturation provides the raw material for learning.

Growth Curve

A graphic representation of the growth rate of an organism is called a growth curve. For example, see the image given below.



Growth is very rapid in the first three years and in the first year it is more rapid. Thereafter, from 5 years to approximately 12 years, the pace of growth slows down. This is called the **plateau stage**. In adolescence (12-18 years), is a growth spurt stage - rapid growth takes place.

Below is a table depicting different stages:

Stage	Age	Rate of Growth
Infancy	Birth-1 year	Very rapid
Early childhood	1-3 year	Rapid
Middle childhood	3-5 year	Mildly rapid
Late childhood	5-12 year	Plateau stage
Adolescence	12-18 year	Growth spurt
Adulthood	18 year & above	Gradual increase

Principles of Development

1. Development follows a pattern – it takes place in an organised, orderly and patterned fashion, whether it is physical, behavioural or speech related aspect.

2. Development proceeds from general to specific (global to analytical) - the child's responses in all phases of development, whether motor or mental, are first of a general sort before they

become specific or differentiated. Development of simpler things first and the more complex ones later.

3. Development leads to integration - Once the child learns specific or differentiated responses, then, as development continues, s/he can synthesise or integrate these specific responses to form a whole.

4. Development is continuous - No development whether physical, mental or speech, occurs suddenly. It takes place at a slow, regular pace.

5. Individual differ w.r.t the rate of development - Although all development is sequential and orderly, yet the pace at which development takes place may vary from person to person.

6. Development occurs at different rates for different parts of the body - Neither the growth of different parts of the body, nor the mental growth takes place at the same rate.

7. Development proceeds from egocentrism to allocentrism - It means that initially a child is very self-centred and does not think of others (egocentrism). However, as the child grows older, egocentrism gives way to allocentrism i.e., being 'others oriented' or considerate to others.

8. Development proceeds from heteronomy to autonomy - Heteronomy means dependence on

others, while autonomy means self-reliance.

9. Development is Predictable - the rate of development is fairly constant for each child. This shows that it is possible to predict the future level of development of the child.

How is the knowledge of the principles of development important?

1. It helps us to know what to expect and when to expect it. This provides an accurate picture of the child's capability at a particular age.

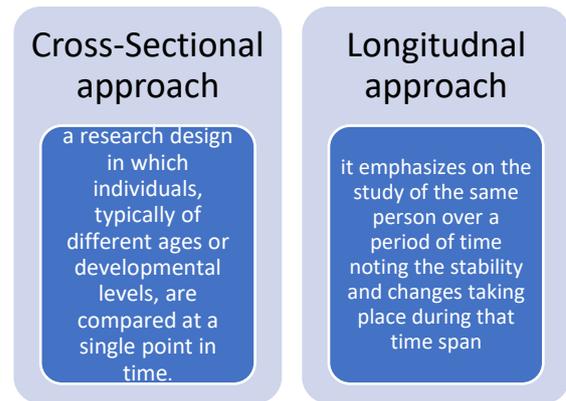
2. It gives information on when to stimulate and when not to, i.e., provide opportunities or wait for maturation.

3. It helps parents, teachers, to prepare them before hand for the bodily changes, interests and behaviours that are to take place.

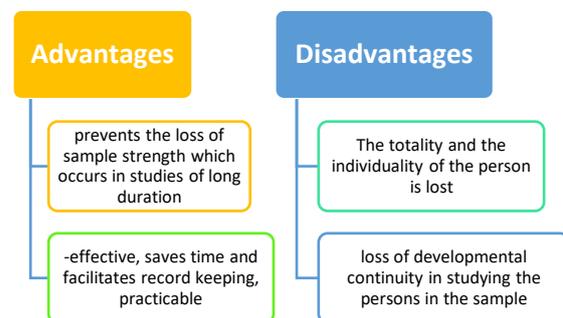
The rate and pattern of development can be changed by certain conditions inside and outside the body. Certain factors like nutrition, sex. Intelligence, injuries and diseases, race, culture etc. also contribute to these differences.

Approaches to study development

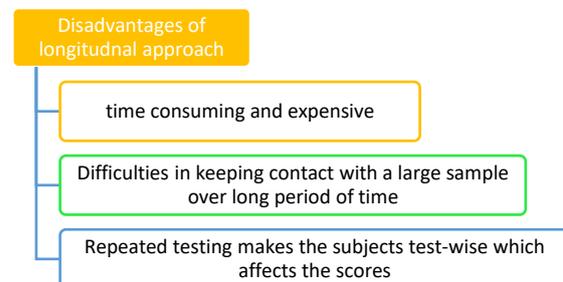
The two main approaches to studying development are –



Advantages and disadvantages of cross-sectional approach;



Disadvantages of Longitudinal approach;



Do You know?

The brain attains mature size around six to eight years of age.

The feet, hands and nose reach their maximum development during early adolescence.

The heart, liver, digestive system etc. grow during adolescence.

Evaluate yourself

1. How does the development occur?
2. Discuss the principles of development.
3. What are the different approaches to study development? Explain.