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CHAPTER - II

CONCEPT OF INTEREST AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND  
OF INTEREST INVENTORIES IN INDIA AND ABROAD

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### CONCEPT OF INTEREST AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF INTEREST INVENTORIES

#### 2.1 INTRODUCTION :-

In Chapter I, the importance, development and structure of Educational technology, significance of problem, objectives of study, statement of problem and definitions of terms, these aspects were considered.

The present chapter deals with the concept of interest and historical background of interest inventories with various views.

#### 2.1a Meaning of Interest:-

The place and importance of interest in education has been fairly well recognized ever since the impact of John Dewey was first widely felt. But this wide recognition has not always been accompanied by clear thinking. Only a few decades back, psychologists spoke of interests assuming that the term refers to some generalized feeling-tone or affective aspect of experience which impels us to attend to a person, thing or activity or which may arise from the activity itself and keep it going. That is it may be cause of activity, its motivating force, or it may be the outcome of participating in the activity.

In education these two aspects of interest are pointed out by saying that interest is both a means and

an end, it arouses and sustains learning activity and also is the outcome and objective of that activity.

Today we are more alive to the large variety and complexity of interests among people and use the form more frequently in the plural.

It is still not possible to offer a usable description of the basic pattern of interest. Some writers define interest as likes and dislikes, motives, predispositions, objectives, and the like. Others describe interest as factors of determining attention to and way from object, persons, and activities, and still others identify them with likes and aversions. But whatever definitions one accepts it is true that interest imply personal feeling involving identification or oneness between the individual and the object, he is concerned about the object of his interest. I.L.Russell (1965) describes interest as, "Organismic conditions" which lead to continuing stimulation of concern about particular object, persons and activities.<sup>1</sup>

#### Definitions and Various Views About Interest:-

Asthana and Agarwal (1982) quoted the definition of the interest by super in their book "Measurement and Evaluation in Psychology and Education as, "Interest is not a separate Psychological but merely of several aspects of behaviour".<sup>2</sup>

In this definition Super has given more stress on the aspect of behaviour. He didnt consider

interest as a matter of Psychology.

Dr. Mahesh Bhargav (1989) quoted definition given by Rummel, Rummels and Gage in his book as, "Interest are presumably the reflection of attraction and aversion in behaviour of feeling of pleasantness and unpleasantness, likes and dislikes."<sup>3</sup>

Rummel, Rummel and Gage pointed the interest towards the behavioural changes in person, that is liking - disliking or pleasantness - unpleasantness. Hence interest is nothing but the reflection and aversion towards those things.

Asthana and Agarwal (1982) in their book 'Measurement and Evaluation in Psychology and Education' have given reference of Fryer's acceptance-Rejection theory. According to Fryer, "we all want to be interested and we want to move to act upon the world in a satisfying manner and we want to react towards us in a equally satisfying fashion."<sup>4</sup>

In the definition given above, Fryer has considered interest as a reaction in satisfying manner and satisfying fashion.

Fryer published a volume, 'The measurement of Interest' in which he summarized ten years of research of his own. The word 'interest' had now become to have a specific meaning of its own. Fryer put interest into

C two main ategories.

- i) Subjective interests - which are like-dislike experience, which are accompanied with the feeling of pleasentness, acceptance or rejection.
- ii) Objective interests - which are reaction of behaviour aspects that can be observed by others.

Subjective interests can be measured by tapping as many like, dislike and indifference experiences of the individual as possible and then making a quantitative score of the same for example Strong vocational Interests Blank.

Objective interests can be measured by administering information and free association tests.

Fryer touched almost all the points related to interests in his book. According to him measurement of interest involves two aspect of behaviour.

- a) direction taken by the reaction that is acceptance rejection.( interest aspect )
- b) Drive of stimulation that is motivation determining that reaction. (motivational aspect)

Fryer believed that interests are not genetically determined, but acquired. They are related to achievement and not to ability.<sup>5</sup>

According to other Psychologists like Vernon, Monroe etc., interest is essential as the starting point of educative process, effort is essential as its outcome, that is interest is helpful to child for mastering his problems and environmental relationship also interests are very much the same as attitudes though their definitions are also a matter of controversy.

From the above information we can say that yet much research work is required for the interest as the distinctions of interests are the matter of controversy. Strong, Berdie and others also putforth some prominent concepts of interest but among them Fryer's work is more effective.

#### Origin of Interest:-

Super (1965) says, Interest are production of interaction between inheritted aptitude and endocrine factors on the one hand and the opportunity and social evaluation on the other. Some of the things a person does well being him the satisfactions of mastery or the approval of persons companions and results in interests. Some of the thing he associates to appeal to him. Though identifications a person patterns his action and interests after him. If he fits patterns reasonably well he remains in it but if not he must seek another identification and develop another self concept and interest pattern".<sup>6</sup>

### 2.2.b Types of Interest :-

while giving vocational and other type of guidance one should acquire the information about personal interest. According to this there are four types of interest, which are classified by Super.

#### 1. Expressive Interest :-

When person expresses his likes and dislikes from interviews or other written techniques, then such types of interest is called as expressed interest. For example answers of questions such as, ' Do you like movies? Do you like reading novels? etc. Though this type of interest is not reliable because person gives wrong answers, than his real thoughts, but this type of interest gives somewhat guidance about interest.

#### 2. Manifested Interest :-

Manifested interest means the interest which looks or manifested from personal activities or business or personal likes. To collect coins, tickets, various types of leaves. This interest is not permanent. But from these activities, hard working ability to work can be determined which helps one to give vocational guidance. Also from drawing, music, or machine business this manifested interest can be seen and it is useful for guidance.

#### 3. Inferred Interest :-

One can detect interest from some tests which are constructed on school subjects. For example, from the test based on the subject Marathi the interest of

involving in literature can be determined. The same thing is true about medical profession. Interest in drawing and mathematics detects the interest in Art and Statistics.

From the ability and liking in sociology one can point out the interest of the individual in social work. It is nothing but the way of collecting the support for a guide to give proper guidance. Hence instead of taking any test interest can be inferred only by careful observation. This interest is called as inferred interest.

#### 4. Inventoried Interest :-

When personal interest can be determined by using checklists, projective techniques or standardized test then the interest is called as inventoried interest.

What do you like to be in future? Which business do you like from following businesses? etc. By asking the questions like this a try can be done for discovering the interest from standardized test.

The investigator has chosen inventoried interest to discover the interest of student teachers in subject Educational technology.

#### 2.2a Historical Background and Review of Interest

##### tests:-

A very first standardized test was prepared in



Cornigi Institute of technology in 1914. After this test in 1918, Minor studied this specific field in proper way by preparing vocational interest test. In 1919-20, Yokam, in first gathering the thousand item interest test was prepared for a person of age thirty.

In 1921, the interest test was prepared by Moore for engineers in which there were twenty items and the preference was given to unweighed scoring procedure.

In 1924, Freud extended the work done by Moore. He administered his interest on fifty-nine persons, among them, thirty-nine were salesman and twenty were engineers.

In 1924-25, Kreig constructed various interest tests to test the interest of various business groups. The number of items were as given below.<sup>7</sup>

1. Interest and Preferences - 5 questions.
2. Occupational preference - 49 questions.
3. Records of preference - 168 items.
4. Interest blank - 102 items.

In 1924, Shutilworth discovered interest inventory of Assayer. He measured interest towards money. In his discovery to determine money minded and nonmoney minded people he constructed seventy five items.

In the same year that is 1924, Coudry and

country discovered Carnigi interest test in which there were 263 items, which were catagoried under like , intermediate and dislike. It discriminates among physics interested, engineers and lawyers.

Another interest inventory namely General interest inventory was prepared by Carnhoffer in 1927. The speciality of this inventory was one that it was made for only gents and including 420 items for only gents.

After this test prepared only for gents, the another inventory was constructed in 1934 for only ladies, which contains four hundred items only.

Thus the four hundred items were devided into eight portions and three catagories like, intermediate and dislike. Before this inventory Hubbard interest Analysis was published by Hubbard after studying Minisota interest test which was containing 189 items. In the same period in 1937 Waller and Prissley prepared occupational orientational enquiry.

The main feature which can be taken as turning point in the world of interest inventories was the Kuder Preference Record prepared by Kuder. In 1951 the inventoried form of this Kuder preference Record was created.

In 1943 to 1953 various interest inventories in

in the form of interest card, interest survey were prepared. Among them vocational interest card prepared by Lee Thape, Interest survey having 360 activities and Nine areas prepared by Guilford, Shneedman and Geemerman. Vocational Interest analysis by Rower and Preedicks, interest shedule prepared by Thirsten, Picture interest inventory for the illiterate and less educated people prepared by Harnold Giest which consists forty four questions constructed for gents and twenty seven questions for ladies, having three alternatives.<sup>8</sup>

#### Development of Interest Tests in India :-

The first work on interest test was done in Psychological laboratory Allahabad. Allahabad beaureau prepared a vocational interest card for high school students in 1956. That was devided in eighty parts. For testing each item there were three numbers 2,1,0 according to highest interest '2' to no interest 0.

Kartik Raychoudhari prepared one interest record with the help of Vernon named Vernon-Raychoudhari survey. Meanwhile in 1958 Vansha Gopal, Zingaran and R.K.Ahuja from Muradabad prepared interest inventories based on Strongs vocational interest card.

In 1962 S.B.Lal Bhardwaj prepared interest card which contains one hundred forty items in which seven types of interests were tested. Such type of work was

done by Raghurajpal Singh in 1967 by preparing interest test having seven fields and one hundred sixty eight items. For young people Ramshukla Pande prepared an interest inventory.

In vocational inventory field Meera Joshi and Jagdish Pandey in (1968) prepared vocational interest inventory. A.P.Kulashrestha (1970) prepared vocational interest card and educational interest inventory. Vocational interest card measures interest in two hundred businesses. Educational interest inventory measures interest in ninety eight subjects.

In 1975 Usharani and S.P.Kulashrestha constructed an interest inventory based on T.A.T. Like all these Psychologists, P.C.Mathur, S.S.Chaddha, H.K.Nijawan and Dwarkaprasad (1982), M.Mukhapadhyay, and D.N.Sansanwal (1983), T.S.Sodhi and H.Bhatanager (1985), L.N..Dube and Archana Dube (1986), S.K.Sinh and B.V.Pande (1988), and Nirmala Gupta (1989) also contributed to this field by constructing interest inventories.<sup>9</sup>

#### Conclusions :-

From the historical background it can be revealed that in foreign countries the first research work on interest inventory was done in 1918. After this work, thought on various interest fields was done and then the various interest inventories were

constructed.

In India the first work was done in 1956 and later on many Psychologists paid attention towards various interest fields like vocational field. For this work some of the psychologists took help from foreign psychologists like Vernon and from foreign interest inventories like Strong's inventory.

All these inventories were having alternatives, and activities from particular areas.

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