

Conceptual Articles

Title of Article/Chapter	Learning Theories: Implications in Teacher Education.
Source Title (journal, book, etc.)	N/A
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Year	(n.d.)
Participant Focus (teachers/students/etc.)	Teacher focused.
Topic	Focus on three learning theories on knowledge evolution: behaviorism, cognitivism, and constructivism.
Main Findings	<p>Teaching-learning strategies has changed throughout time. Although the constructivist approach has been the best approach of the 21st century, we cannot overlook the behavioristic and cognitive approaches. This paper concentrates on a critical review of the three most influential learning theories and discusses the foundation upon which the constructivist theory of learning has been rooted. A structural design on knowledge development in respect to the three approaches with importance of inclusion of constructivist approach of teaching-learning in teacher education institutes for teacher training purposes.</p> <p>A focus on highlighting the importance of incorporating all the approaches of teaching-learning in teacher education programs for teacher training purposes. Human learning strategies cannot be confined into a particular approach of learning theory, rather need to accumulate strengths of every learning approach as it demands.</p> <p>Today's teachers are expected to play a variety of roles in the classroom and strategies must be adopted keeping learners' requirements in view.</p> <p>Behaviorist's learning is a mechanical process of associating the stimulus with response, which produces a new behavior through reinforcement. The strengths of a behaviorist approach focus on modifying behavior through reinforcement, punishment and extinction. Successful outcomes are easily measurable, it guarantees specific learning, and it is easy to apply. Weaknesses</p>

of the behavior theory fails to explain the development of human languages and the effects of the student's environment is not accountable when shaping behavior.

Cognitivist theory learners are active participants in their learning, and the mind functions like a computer processor. Learning is shaped by acquired learning strategies and prior knowledge and attitudes, called schemas. This view of learning is teacher-centered, and learning happens only when the information presented is organized. Its strengths are an organized structure to learning as information is received and processed, problems are broken down and learners are not overwhelmed as they are given time to process what they are learning. Cognitivist theory's weakness is in its strength. Because it is so structured, it is not adaptable.

Constructivism theory places the learner at the center, The learner takes in new information and gives meaning to it using his or her own prior attitudes, beliefs, and experiences as references. The learner constructs his/her own learning through personal experiences and interactions with the outside world. Its strengths include activities that are relevant to the learner and real-world based. Learners construct their knowledge based on their experiences, beliefs and attitudes. Its weaknesses include the variation of individual experiences and attitudes. Specific outcomes are not always achieved as different people have different experiences.

When teachers work towards developing knowledge, they must take the learner, the content and the learners' environment into consideration, regardless of the learning theory being applied. The student's learning always depends on prior knowledge. Once prior knowledge is activated then the student is ready for new information based on their developmental readiness and the material that is being taught. New content in the hands of a teacher consists of new vocabulary being introduced, the concept being taught, and the application of the skill being taught. A critical point is when the learner, not the teacher, decides, implicitly or explicitly, that the conditions have been met that conceptual change occurs.

It is important to be comfortable with the different learning theories in order to effectively plan and adopt a learning approach that considers all the factors that can affect a lesson, the learner, the content and the environment.

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The Learning Theory Diagram shows different learning theories and the experts that discovered them and/or studied them. It provides additional perspectives and opinions in order to be better informed and have a deeper understanding as to how teaching-learning has changed throughout time

