

# **Intelligence**

Meaning of Intelligence

- Intelligence is considered to be one of the most controversial topics in psychology
- There is no agreed definition of intelligence
- In general terms, intelligence means the manner which an individual deals with facts and situations.

- Definitions:

D.W. Wechsler (1950) "Intelligence is the aggregate or the global capacity of the individual to act purposefully, to think rationally and to deal effectively with the environment."

- Stern(1941)"Intelligence is a general capacity of an individual, consciously to adjust his thinking to new environment."

- Calvin "It is the ability to learn."
- L.M Terman(1921)"An individual is intelligent in proportion as he is able to carry on abstract thinking."

- The above definitions are based on the four fold classification suggested by various psychologist
- 1) emphasis on adjustment and adaptation of the individual to the environment
  - 2) Ability to learn
  - 3) Ability to carry on abstract thinking
  - 4) Refers to operational definitions

- Characteristics of Intelligence
- amount of intelligence that a person possesses is inherited and fixed .
- Environment contributes towards development of Intelligence.
- An intelligent person has the ability to adjust to changing circumstances with ease efficiency and speed.

- Intelligence is seen in both sexes
- Intelligence is not based on race .every racial and cultural group contains some gifted children.

- Three broad areas of intelligence
- Turnstone suggested three areas of intelligence
- 1) Abstract intelligence
- 2) Mechanical intelligence
- 3) Social intelligence



## Theories of Intelligence:

- Two factor theory of Intelligence by Spearman
- Group factor theory of Intelligence by L.L.Thurstone

-Two factor theory is also known as Eclectic Theory

-was propounded by Charles Spearman an English psychologist in 1904

-He produced a strong evidence from his own researches that there was one fundamental ability underlying all cognitive functions.

According to Spearman every task involving intellectual activity depends upon a general ability or 'g' factor and a specific ability or the 's' factor.

This is popularly known as two factor theory

i.e, 'g' factor and 's' factor.

It is a general mental ability

The g factor / general intelligence is an inborn ability

It helps individuals to perform different normal functions

The greater the general ability the greater is his intelligence

When an individual respond to any situation or perform any intellectual task, our general mental ability or 'g' factor is responsible for part of our reactions.

The specific ability or 's' factor helps an individual to undertake specific tasks. With the presence of 's' ability the individual is able to draw inferences, to complete sentences, to continue a series of numbers, and the ability to code messages etc.

Spearman In his theory harmonizes elements from all types.