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L3

M. Ed.

SEMESTER IV

Paper OC17: Guidance and Counseling

Unit II Appraisal of an individual

Dear students

Today we will discuss

Testing Device- Aptitude tests

Meaning and nature of aptitude:

Dictionary of Education – Aptitude is defined as

“Pronounced innate capacity for or ability in a given line of endeavour such as a particular art, school subject or vocation.”

Van Dusen has defined.

“Aptitude is a measure of the probable rate of learning which results in interest and satisfaction and is relatively specific and narrow.”

Therefore we can say that:

- Aptitude is symptomatic or indicative of one’s potentialities.
- Aptitude can be developed by practice and training.
- It is the combination of both inborn capacities and developed abilities and skills etc.
- It is considered to be unique or unusual potential of an individual.
- It is a present condition but with a forward reference.
- Aptitude open the ways of interest and satisfaction in life.
- An understanding of one’s aptitude helps us to know what one can do in future.

Definition of Aptitude Tests: Aptitude tests are standardized instruments assessing specific cognitive, perceptual, or physical skills. These tests are frequently used in industry to inform decisions about hiring, placement, and advancement. In addition, aptitude tests are used in selection procedures for college, professional programs, and career planning. Aptitude tests are also useful for program evaluation and answering research questions based on scientific inquiry. In most cases, aptitude tests are administered in group format.

Next to intelligence, aptitude is considered to be another important characteristic of an individual which can predict success in a course of study or career. It is asserted that aptitudes are related to vocational success as intelligence is related to success in life in general.

Along with the measurement of general intelligence, the measurement of aptitude is also necessary because both these measures provide sufficient information about the potentialities of an individual.

Measurement of Aptitude: A number of aptitude tests have been developed. Apart from general aptitude batteries, aptitude tests in special areas, aptitude tests for different professions and tests of artistic aptitude (or talent) are now available for us.

Aptitude tests can be broadly categorized as under:

1. Differential Aptitude Test Battery, and
2. Special Aptitude tests.

1. Differential Aptitude Test Battery: This is a comprehensive and carefully developed Battery. It has been developed by George K. Bennett, Harold G. Seashore and Alexander G. Wesman. It was developed principally for use in educational and vocational counseling of high school students. It was designed for grades 8 through 12. The Battery consists of 7 subtests.

These subtests are:

- i. Verbal reasoning test,
- ii. Numerical ability test,
- iii. Abstract reasoning test,
- iv. Space relations tests,
- v. Mechanical reasoning test,
- vi. Clerical speed and accuracy test, and
- vii. Language usage test.

2. Special Aptitude Tests: The different Special Aptitude Tests are as under:

(A) Mechanical Aptitude Test: A number of tests are available for measuring mechanical aptitude for a fairly large field of occupations rather than for a single occupation.

- i. Minnesota Mechanical Assembly Test.
- ii. Minnesota Spatial Relations Test.
- iii. Minnesota Paper Form Board.
- iv. Johnson O'Connor's Wiggly Blocks.
- v. Sharma's Mechanical Aptitude Test Battery.
- vi. Stengquist Mechanical Aptitude Tests.

(B) Clerical Aptitude Tests: A number of tests are available for measuring clerical aptitude:

- i. Minnesota Clerical Aptitude Test.
- ii. General Clerical Aptitude.
- iii. The Detroit Clerical Aptitude Examination.
- iv. P.R.W. Test.
- v. Orissa Test of Clerical Aptitude.
- vi. Clerical Aptitude Test.

(C) Tests of Artistic Aptitude: Some tests have been devised to measure the artistic aptitudes.

Some such tests are listed below:

- i. Graphic Arts Test:
- ii. Musical Aptitude Tests:
- iii. Literary Aptitude Tests:

(D) Professional Aptitude Tests: These tests primarily measure aptitude for different professions. Such tests are administered before admission into professional institutions like medical, legal, engineering institutions. There are many tests to measure aptitude in medicine, science, mathematics, law, engineering, teaching etc.

(E) Scholastic Aptitude Tests: These tests measure the scholastic aptitudes. Some examples of such tests are Scholastic Aptitude Tests and Graduate Record Examination.

(F) Other Tests like Motor Dexterity Tests: Other Tests like Motor Dexterity Tests, Sensory Tests, Visual Tests and Auditory Tests.

Uses of Aptitude Tests: Following are the uses of Aptitude test:

- Aptitude tests are used for the purpose of prediction for future success both in educational and vocational careers.
- These tests are used to help the students in the proper choice of courses, subjects and careers.
- They are used as they supplement other psychological test.
- Aptitude tests are used to help the students in the improvement of certain special traits.
- They are used for the purpose of admission and selection of students in the college and technical institutions.

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