

THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTIVATION IN LEARNING

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Abstract: This article highlights the importance of motivation in learning process.

Key words: Motivation, activities, self-development, continuous motivation, cognitive processing, factors.

Motivation is a complex part of human psychology and behavior that influences how individuals choose to invest their time, how much energy they exert in any given task, how they think and feel about the task, and how long they persist in the task [1;722].

Bakar added that motivation reflects in students' choices of learning tasks, the time and effort they devote to them, their persistence on learning tasks, and in coping with the obstacles they encounter in the learning process. According to Luthans, motivation is a process which starts with physiological or psychological deficiency or need that activates a behavior or drive which is aimed at a goal or incentives. This is why motivation is refer to as "the reasons underlying behavior" [Guay , p. 712].

Learners assign various meanings and attitudes to academic activities—personal meanings and attitudes that arouse and direct their energies in different ways. These associated energizing and directing effects are referred to as motivation or sometimes motivation to learn. [2;]

Learning the motivation of students in education is important. A learner learns best when he/she recognizes the need and develops the desire to learn. This is through motivation. Motivation stimulates learners to think, concentrate, and learn effectively. Bakar stated that motivation increases the performance of learning. Learning is an active process requiring a participative role. It influences the rate of learning, the retention of information, and the desire to learn. ii. Motivation increases the speed of work that a learner is putting to achieve a goal. In education, motivation is a factor of high or low points of the goal. [1;732]

When not well-motivated, a learner learns very little with difficulty as he/she sees no need to learn. Therefore, motivation provides the effort and energy that a learner needs to achieve the task. It brings the learner to the proper frame of

mind for learning. It concentrates the attention and energy of a person on the activity or knowledge to be learned.

Motivation determines whether a student will pursue a task (even a difficult one) with enthusiasm or a lackluster attitude. iii. Motivation is a significantly important factor for academic learning and achievement across childhood through adolescence [3;711].

Motivation is one of the prime tasks of teaching. The instructor should ensure that it is built in every lesson presentation. Motivation should be started during the introduction of the lesson to ensure the learners' interest and to direct attention to what is to be learned. It should not stop at the introduction stage but be continued throughout the entire lesson presentation.

The motivation of learning activities helps the learner to concentrate on what he/she is doing, and thereby gain satisfaction.

Continuous motivation is needed to help learners concentrate on the lessons to be learned. If an individual is motivated, he/she will exude some form of satisfaction. This helps in the self development of the learner.

Motivation directs learners' behavior toward particular goals. It determines the specific goals toward which learners strive; thus, it affects the choices students make. For example, whether to enroll in an art class or science, whether to attend a school football game during the week or complete an assignment that is due the next day.

Motivation increases the initiation and persistence of learning activities. It increases students' time on task and is also an important factor affecting their learning and achievement.

Motivation enhances cognitive processing. It actually affects what and how information is processed, because motivated students are more likely to pay attention and try to understand the material instead of simply going through the motions of learning in a superficial manner. [4;165]

Motivation determines what consequences are reinforcing and punishing. For example, students with a high level of motivation for classroom achievement and high GPAs are reinforced by receiving a grade of 'A' and they'll feel punished if they receive a grade of "F"

The motivation of learners is essential for their academic success in school. Motivation has been related to the amount of intellectual energy typically used in learning activities, and this led to a belief that motivation could be seen as a stable characteristic of the learner, on a par with personality.

Motivation can be influenced by some factors. These factors include needs, interest, enjoyment, the social life of students, the teacher, the teaching method used, and the learning environment.

Motivation is important because it stimulates and energizes the learners to think, concentrate, and learn effectively. In improving students' motivation, the teacher must pay attention to some factors. These include setting a clear goal, showing the need for the lesson, arousing and maintaining learners' interest in the lesson, and increasing chances of success among others.

Finally, if the teacher can apply all the motivational strategies used in the teaching-learning process, it is possible that learners will be energized and enthusiastic to reach the learning goal.

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