

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Q. Discuss meaning and nature of personality?

R. The meaning and definition of any term is arbitrary. This also holds true in case of the word personality. To arrive at its meaning, we have to trace the historical root of the word. The term personality has been derived from the Latin word 'Persona' that was associated with Greek theatre in ancient times. The mask, worn by the actors, was called persona. According to the concept of mask, personality was thought to be the effect and influence which the individual wearing a mask left in the audience.

Definitions:

1. **Watson.** "personality is the sum of activities that can be discovered by actual observations over a long enough period of time to give reliable information"
2. **R. S. Woodworth.** "Personality is the quality of the individual's total behaviour."
3. **Allport.** "Personality is a dynamic organisation within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his unique adjustment to his environment."
4. **R. B. Cattel.** "Personality is that which permits a prediction of what a person will do in a given situation."
5. **Eysenk.** "Personality is the more or less stable and enduring organisation of a person's character, temperament, intellect and physique, which determine his unique adjustment to the environment."

Thus we can conclude the following points about personality:

1. The personality is something unique and specific. No two individuals behave in precisely the same way over any period of time.
2. The main characteristic of personality is self-consciousness. The man is described as a person or to have a personality when the idea of self enters into his consciousness.
3. Personality includes everything about a person. It includes all the behaviour patterns, i.e., conative, cognitive and affective and covers not only conscious activities but goes deeper into semi-conscious and unconscious also.
4. It is an organisation of some psychophysical systems or some behaviour characteristics and functions as a unified whole.
5. Personality is not static, it is dynamic and ever in process of change and modification. One has to struggle with the environmental as well as the inner forces throughout the span of his life.
6. Every personality is the product of heredity and environment. Both contribute significantly towards the development of the child's personality.
7. Learning and acquisition of experiences contribute towards growth and development of personality. Every personality is the end product of this process of learning and acquisition.

Indeed this short and concise explanation of the term has a wide meaning. It draws a beautiful portrait of an individual's totality. It may be understood to mean as the sum total of one's way of behaving towards oneself and others as

well. It also predicts one's nature of behaviour as how one will behave in a particular situation and one's pattern of adjustment to the ever-changing forces of environment.

END...
