

Explain piaget theory of cognitive development and stages in detail

Q No 1:

1: Introduction:

Cognitive development is an important area in psychology to study. Different theories explain different stages of cognitive development. Among those, Jean Piaget theory of cognitive development is important. Piaget considered children to be active part of the society. They explore the world through experiments. These experiments become the basis of exploring world. In this process they go through different stages. Every stage demands some milestones to be achieved at appropriate level. This theory is applied in educational settings to improve cognitive development of the child. Despite its wide acceptance there are also some shortcomings of the theory.

2: Introduction of the theory:

Jean Piaget proposed the theory by making experiments and

observing his own children. He proposed that children are active participants of community. They are not mere passive participants or recipient of biological stimulus. They explore the world by performing different experiments.

Piaget
develo
thing

children as active
Participants

(try to explore the world)

Performing experiments

experiments become the base of

Construct Schemas

Assimilation

when previous
schemas fit to
handle new
situation.

Accommodation

when the child
needs to change
the schema
to handle new
situation.

of
throu
lear

3 Stag

First
Sen

Piaget proposed that cognitive development depends upon four things:

- 1: Activeness
- 2: Biological maturation
- 3: Equilibration
- 4: Social transmission

He proposed different stages of cognitive development. By passing through these stages the child learns new things.

3 Stages of cognitive development:

First	Second	Third	Fourth
Sensory motor Stage	Pre-operational Stage	concrete operational Stage	Formal operational Stage
• 0-2 years	• 2-7	7-11	• 11 onwards
• concept of object permanence	• one operation Focus • ego centricism	• law of conservation and reversibility	• logical reasoning

ii) Sensory motor stage:

The first stage of cognitive development lasts for 2 years from birth. At this stage child learn to the concept of object permanence and the relationship between the object and the environment.

Example

Things continue to present even if they are not visible

Example

Shaking the rattle to make noise.

iii) Pre-operational stage:

The second stage lasts for 2-7 years. At this stage the child start using language to present the object. The operations are based on only one characteristic.

Example

Putting red block together regardless of shape, size etc the focus

is based on red color only.

(iii) Concrete operational stage:

The third stage lasts till 11 years of age. The ability of reasoning at this stage starts developing. The child learns the laws of conversation and reversibility at this stage.

Example

Mass of anything does not change by rearranging it.

(iv) Formal operational stage:

The fourth stage starts from 11 years of age and goes onwards. At this stage, child learns social role, use abstract reasoning and perform experiments. Inductive reasoning becomes evident at this stage.

Example

Performing scientific experiments.

40 Contemporary Analysis:

Piaget theory of cognitive development is an important work to be applied in educational settings. This theory is widely accepted and applied in temporary world. In special education settings this is used to teach the child demanded

skills which are stage appropriate.

Although this is widely accepted, yet has some drawbacks. It is not culturally relevant. All the

children of different cultures does not learn through this

uniform way. The role of social values, culture and language is completely ignored in the theory.

5: Conclusion:

Piaget theory explains the cognitive development of a child according to different stages. child learn different new

Skills
achie
the
next
acc

Q N
Int

is
per
app
the

on
Thi

PS
with
PS

Skills at every stage. After achieving specific milestones of the stage, he moves toward the next stage. This theory is widely accepted in contemporary world.