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Piaget's Theory Of Cognitive Development

- *P.G.Semt-3*
- *Educational Psychology*

Piaget's Theory Of Cognitive Development

- Cognition refers to thinking and memory processes, and cognitive development refers to long-term changes in these processes.
- One of the most widely known perspectives about cognitive development is the cognitive stage theory of a Swiss psychologist named Jean Piaget.
- Theory account of how children and youth gradually become able to think logically and scientifically.

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- Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development suggests that children move through four different stages of mental development. His theory focuses not only on understanding how children acquire knowledge, but also on understanding the nature of intelligence.

Stages of Development

- Piaget's four stages of cognitive development are:-
- Sensorimotor stage: birth to 2 years
- Preoperational stage: ages 2 to 7
- Concrete operational stage: ages 7 to 11
- Formal operational stage: ages 12 and up

Cont..

- Piaget did not claim that a particular stage was reached at a certain age – although descriptions of the stages often include an indication of the age at which the average child would reach each stage.



The Sensorimotor Stage

- **Ages: Birth to 2 Years**
- Major Characteristics and Developmental Changes:
- The infant knows the world through their movements and sensations
- Children learn about the world through basic actions such as sucking, grasping, looking, and listening.



The Sensorimotor cont..

- Infants learn that things continue to exist even though they cannot be seen
- They are separate beings from the people and objects around them
- They realize that their actions can cause things to happen in the world around them.



Sensorimotor cont..

- The cognitive development that occurs during this period takes place over a relatively short period of time and involves a great deal of growth. Children not only learn how to perform physical actions such as crawling and walking; they also learn a great deal about language from the people with whom they interact.



The Preoperational Stages

- **Ages: 2 to 7 Years**
- Major Characteristics and Developmental Changes:
- Children begin to think symbolically and learn to use words and pictures to represent objects.
- Children at this stage tend to be egocentric and struggle to see things from the perspective of others.
- While they are getting better with language and thinking, they still tend to think about things in very concrete terms

The Concrete Operational Stage

- **Ages: 7 to 11 Years**
- Major Characteristics and Developmental Changes
- During this stage, children begin to thinking logically about concrete events
- They begin to understand the concept of conservation; that the amount of liquid in a short, wide cup is equal to that in a tall, skinny glass, for example



Concrete Operational cont..

- Their thinking becomes more logical and organized, but still very concrete
- Children begin using inductive logic, or reasoning from specific information to a general principle



The Formal Operational Stage

- **Ages: 12 and Up**
- Major Characteristics and Developmental Changes:
- At this stage, the adolescent or young adult begins to think abstractly and reason about hypothetical problems
- Abstract thought emerges
- Teens begin to think more about moral, philosophical, ethical, social, and political issues that require theoretical and abstract reasoning
- Begin to use deductive logic, or reasoning from a general principle to specific information



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- Encourage students to learn from their peers. This is especially relevant for children in the 2 to 7 age range but applies to students of all ages. Allow students to learn from their mistakes.
- Piaget believed that children develop knowledge about the world through trial and error.

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- Allow students to learn from their mistakes. Piaget believed that children develop knowledge about the world through trial and error. Mistakes can be frustrating for the students as well as the teacher, but try to model patience and guide the student toward a different conclusion.
- Piaget encouraged independent, hands-on learning and opportunities for discovery. Plan a variety of classroom activities that accommodate different learning styles, such as visual or auditory.