

Quadrant II - Notes

Course Code: EDU – 02 (for B.Ed.), BSBAEDU 02 (for B.Sc.B.Ed. / B.A.B.Ed.)

Module Name: Thinking – Critical and Creative

Module No:

Introduction:

Human beings are essentially social. We live in a civilized society and this characteristic distinguishes a human being from other species. However, besides this, there is another characteristic which is distinct to the human species – the ability to think. Cognitive abilities such as thinking, reasoning, and problem solving may be considered to be some of the chief characteristics which distinguish human beings from other species including the higher animals.

Types of Thinking

1. Perceptual or Concrete Thinking
2. Conceptual or Abstract thinking
3. Reflective thinking
4. Critical Thinking
5. Creative Thinking

CRITICAL THINKING

Definitions:

- “Critical thinking is the intentional application of rational, higher order thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, problem recognition and problem solving, inference and evaluation” (Angelo, 1995).
- “Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and /or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by observation,

experience, reflection, reasoning or communication, as a guide to belief and action” (Seriven 1996).

- “Critical thinking means making reasoned judgements” (Beyer,1995).

Characteristics of Critical Thinking:

- It is a type of thinking that helps a person in stepping aside from his own personal beliefs, prejudices, and opinions to sort out the facts and discover the truth, even at the expense of his basic system.
- It represents a challenging thought process which leads a person to new avenues of knowledge and understanding.
- It is a structural approach of thinking to find ways and means for the improvement of the thinking process itself.
- Here one resorts to a set of higher cognitive abilities and skills for the proper interpretation, analysis, evaluation, and inference, as well as explanation of the gathered or communicated information resulting in a purposeful, unbiased, and self – regulatory judgement.
- A critical thinker is supposed to imbibe certain specific critical thinking skills along with proper dispositions and attitude of utilizing these skills for personal and social progress.

CREATIVE THINKING

This type of thinking is associated with ones’ ability to create or construct something new, novel or unusual. It looks for new relations and associations to describe and interpret the nature of things, event and situations. It is not restricted by any pre –established rules. The individual usually formulates the problem and is also free to collect the evidences and to fashion the tools for its solution. The thinking of scientists, artists, or inventors provides ideal examples of such type of thinking.

Definitions:

- “Creative thinking means that the predictions and / or inferences for the individual are new, original, ingenious, unusual. The creative thinker is one who explores new areas and makes new observations, new predictions, new inferences” (Charles Skinner, 1968).

- “It is a special form of thinking, a way of viewing the world and interacting with it in a manner different from that of the general population. It is the ability to discover new solutions to problems or to produce new ideas, inventions or works of art” (M.J. Levin, 1978).

Characteristics of Creative Thinking:

- Any creative expression as a result of ones’ creative thinking is a source of joy and satisfaction for the creator.
- Although our creative abilities involving creative thinking are natural endowments, they can be nourished and nurtured by training or education.
- Creative thinking in all its dimensions involves divergent thinking instead of the routine and fixed type of convergent thinking. The mind must have complete freedom to wander around to create new ideas.
- The field of creative thinking and its output is quite comprehensive and wide. It covers all the aspects of human accomplishments belonging to an individual’s life.
- Creative thinking in all its shapes and forms, is absolutely an internal mental process and hence should be considered as an important component of ones’ cognitive behaviour.
- Everyone is capable of creative thinking and hence it is a universal phenomenon.
- Creative thinking results in the production of something new or novel (including a new form or arrangement of old elements).
- Psychologists, on the basis of their researches, have agreed on the presence of the following elements or factors in ones’ creative thinking:
 - Ideational fluency
 - Originality
 - Divergent thinking
- Self-confidence and persistence.
- Ability to see and build relationships.