

CHAPTER-17

Distinction among Attitude,
Aptitude and Interest

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The main difference between aptitude and attitude is that **aptitude is a person's natural ability to learn something, while attitude is a person's feelings, opinions or perspectives about something.**

Aptitude measures a person's ability to acquire a new **skill or ability**. It's a measure related to intelligence. Attitude, on the other hand, is one's mental perspective about a particular issue or person. Psychological findings for children's developmental patterns have led to an increased appreciation of education as an active functioning process that involves not only the learner's ability to achieve but also his/ her emotional reactions to the materials of learning. The degree of success that a learner can be expected to attain in his/her learning activities depends in great measure upon the child's own aptitudes, attitudes, and his or her temporary or persistent efforts.

Learning must be motivated in such a way that the ability or **aptitude and interest** in the content of study is built upon the **child's existing attitudes**. However, the initial attitudes and interest that the child brings into the instructional formal instructional environment may not always be appropriate to stimulate the child to achieve to the limit of their potentials;

then, conscious effort has to be directed towards change of such attitudes and interest. The knowledge about the **aptitude, attitude and interest** is essential for teachers to guide their students in the instructional environment.

Attitude

The word attitude refers to **an individual's orientation** toward an item, person, concept, institution, social process or situation is indicating his or her web of beliefs and perceptions based on their experiences or observational learning. Attitude influences Behaviour and attention.

An attitude is one's opinion or standpoint about something. It can be described as "a set of emotions, beliefs, and behaviours toward a particular object, person, thing, or event". Attitudes are based on a person's experiences, values, beliefs, and emotions. Therefore, they are personal responses set according to personal preferences. For example, two people can have two very different attitudes towards the same issue, i.e., one person may show a positive attitude while the other may show a negative attitude. This is why there is so much controversy around issues like homosexuality, abortions, and religion. Attitudes of a person have a strong influence over his or her behaviour. Moreover, the way a person behaves in a situation depends on his or her attitudes.

In psychology, attitudes are categorized into three main components as affective, behavioural and cognitive. We also call this the ABC model of attitudes. **Affective** indicates how something makes you feel, while **behavioural** indicates how attitude influences your behaviour. Moreover, the **cognitive** component is related to your thoughts and beliefs about a subject.

Furthermore, attitudes can be either explicit or implicit. Explicit attitudes are attitudes that we are consciously aware of. They influence our behaviours and beliefs. Implicit attitudes, on the other hand, are unconscious, but they do have an effect on our beliefs and behaviours.

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