

Pedagogy: Meaning & Nature

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Introduction:

Pedagogy most commonly understood as the approach to teaching, refers to the theory and practice of teaching, and how this process influences, and is influenced by, the social, political and psychological development of learners. Pedagogy, taken as an academic discipline, is the study of how knowledge and skills are imparted in an educational context, and it considers the interactions that take place during learning. Both the theory and practice of pedagogy vary greatly, as they reflect different social, political, and cultural contexts.

Meaning of Pedagogy:

Word origin from Greek word Paidagogos

Paid=child, Agogos= leader (slave who took child to school)

Pedagogy is often described as the act of teaching. The pedagogy adopted by teachers shapes their actions, judgments, and other teaching strategies by taking into consideration theories of learning, understandings of students and their needs, and the backgrounds and interests of individual students. Some definitions are given bellow-

- Pedagogy has been described as the ‘act and discourse of teaching’ (Alexander, 2004)
- Pedagogy can be defined as the understanding of how learning takes place and the philosophy and practice that supports that understanding of learning.
- Pedagogy is concept that is related with child learning.
- Pedagogy is the study of teaching activity and it is convey in a manner that will lead to better learning in students.
- Pedagogy is the exploration of effective teaching and learning strategies
- Pedagogy involves being able to convey knowledge and skills in ways that students can understand, remember and apply.

Nature of Pedagogy:

Pedagogy is an art

Right from the beginning, education was assigned the status of an art – the art of teaching, of leading children to knowledge. This concept reminds us that the profession of educator first emerged in Ancient Greece. Back then, the role of educator was performed by slaves, who were given the noble task of walking the master’s children to school, taking care of their physical appearance, and accompanying them during their chores and play. The founding father of education is widely considered to be Socrates (5th century BC).

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Pedagogy is a science

At the end of the 19th century, the development of such scientific fields as sociology and psychology is accompanied by the emergence of pedagogy as an applied science,” that is, it starts to be viewed as a true science. Pedagogy is now treated as a science with the understanding that its ultimate objective, as in the other cases, is not so much to describe or explain but instead to guide the process of teaching and learning. That is, it’s a field of science that just might to teach us how to teach. It’s no coincidence that we’ve used the subjunctive mood here, since pedagogy – as the science of teaching and learning – is not a fully-formed discipline, thereby leaving room for other educational sciences, a plural science. It became clear over time that the exotic science known as “Pedagogy” could not be soluble there.

Pedagogy is an applied science

Today, we no longer debate whether pedagogy is an art or a science. We live at a time when pedagogy – just as medicine or politics – is viewed as an “applied science,” that is, as a discipline geared towards the practical application of acquired knowledge.

Thus, the history of pedagogy is the history of pedagogues or, as Jean Houssaye put it, of the practitioners and theorists of the instructional process. At issue are the men and women “engaged in the actual educational process, using both theoretical concepts and practical skills combined in such a way as to obscure the extent to which the practical skills employed in the educational process are more important than theoretical concepts, and vice versa.”

Following are the nature of pedagogy-

- Related with child
- Art of teaching
- Science of teaching
- Practice of teaching
- Applied science
- Methods of teaching