

Andragogy: Meaning & Nature

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Introduction:

The term was originally coined by German educator Alexander Kapp in 1833. Andragogy was developed into a theory of adult education by Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy. It later became very popular in the US by the American educator Malcolm Knowles. Knowles asserted that andragogy (Greek: "man-leading") should be distinguished from the more commonly used term pedagogy (Greek: "child-leading").

Meaning of Andragogy:

The word Andragogy derives from the Greek word means "adult-leading". Andragogy refers to a theory of adult learning that details some of the ways in which adults learn differently than children. For example, adults tend to be more self-directed, internally motivated, and ready to learn. Teachers can draw on concepts of andragogy to increase the effectiveness of their adult education.

- The art teaching for adult
- The science of teaching for adult
- The profession of teaching adults
- Adult education practice
- Specific teaching methods
- Andragogy refers to methods and principles used in adult education.
- "Andragogy" was a term coined to refer to the art/science of teaching adults.

Definition of Andragogy:

- The science of understanding (theory) and supporting (practice) lifelong education of adults.
- According to Malcolm Knowles, andragogy is the art and science of adult learning, thus andragogy refers to any form of adult learning.

So, andragogy is the art and science of helping adults learn, and a learner-focused approach for people of all ages.

Assumptions about Andragogy:

Knowles (1980) made four assumptions about Andragogy:

1. Adults need to know why they need to learn something
2. Adults need to learn experientially,
3. Adults approach learning as problem-solving, and
4. Adults learn best when the topic is of immediate value.

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Principles of Andragogy:

Knowles(1984) discussed four principles that educators should consider when teaching adults-

1. Adults need to be involved in the planning and evaluation of their instruction.
2. Experience (including mistakes) provides the basis for learning activities.
3. Adults are most interested in learning subjects that have immediate relevance to their job or personal life.
4. Adult learning is problem-centered rather than content-oriented.

Nature of Andragogy:

- Related with adult learning
- Applied in nature
- problem-centered
- Specific teaching methods
- Immediate application
- Based on experience
- Personal learning
- Self-directed
- Internally motivated

Conclusion

Andragogy applies to any form of adult learning and has been used extensively in the design of organizational training programs