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Class: B.A. General/Subsidiary Ist Year

Paper: Fundamental Psychology

Topic: Introduction, Definition and Concept of Psychology

Introduction: Psychology is concerned with almost all aspects of our lives. Everyone one is interested to know about psychology. Many people think that psychology deals with treating mad people. Some other feel that psychologists can read your mind just by looking at you/your face/forehead. They tend to equate psychologists with astrologers, geomancers, numerologists, who claim to solve your problems of life and predict our future.

The term 'Psychology' is derived from two Greek words; 'Psyche' means 'soul or breath' and 'logos' means 'knowledge' or 'study' (study or investigation of something).

Definition of Psychology: It has been defined in a no. of ways by various investigators. Psychologists had been debating on whether psychology should focus on "soul", "mind", "consciousness" or "behavior". In this context, Woodworth (1948) had earlier suggested that, first psychology lost its soul, then its mind, then it lost its consciousness. It still has behavior of soul.

Current Definitions: The term behavior is still there in almost all the modern definitions. Some of the recent definitions are as follows:

- * The scientific study of behavior and mental processes (Feldman, 1996)
- * The science of behavior and mental processes (Lakay, 1998)
- * The science of behavior and cognitive processes. (Baron, 1999)
- * Scientific study of behavior and mind (Harris, 2003)
- * The science that studies behavior and mental processes. (Rathus, 2008).