



NATURE AND PROCESS OF CREATIVE THINKING

NATURE OF CREATIVE THINKING

Production of novel ideas

- Different from other types of thinking since it involves production of novel and original ideas or solutions to problems .

Originality

- Originality is an important characteristic of creative thinking.

Appropriateness in a particular context

- Simply thinking differently without any purpose , doing things in one's own ways, being non-conformist is not creative .

THINKING is said to be CREATIVE when it is reality-oriented, appropriate , constructive and socially desirable.

J.P. GUILFORD PROPOSED TWO TYPES OF THINKING

DIVERGENT THINKING

- Open-ended thinking where the individual can think of different answers to the questions.
- It helps in producing novel and original ideas.
- One associates more freely to the various elements of a problem.

CONVERGENT THINKING

- Thinking that is required to solve problems which have only one correct answer.
- The mind converges to the correct solution.
- One tries to narrow thinking to find the single best solution.

DIVERGENT THINKING ABILITIES INVOLVE

FLUENCY

Ability to produce many ideas for a given task or problem

FLEXIBILITY

Indicates variety in thinking.
Thinking of different uses of a cup, or different ways of solving a problem

ORIGINALITY

Ability to produce ideas which are rare or unusual by combining seemingly unrelated things together.

ELABORATION

Enables a person to go into details and workout implications of new ideas.

PROCESS OF CREATIVE THINKING

1. PREPARATION



2. INCUBATION



3. ILLUMINATION



4. VERIFICATION

CONTD....

1. PREPARATION STAGE

- Requires one to understand the task or problem in hand, analyse the problem and become aware of the related information.
- The person tries to look at the task or problem from different angles and viewpoints.

2. INCUBATION STAGE

- When the person is trying to generate different alternatives, there may be a feeling of getting stuck. One may even get disgusted and leave the problem for sometime.
- Creative ideas may not occur immediately during incubation when the individual is not consciously thinking but seeking relaxation from conscious effort.
- They may occur or strike when a person is doing something else, for example, watching TV

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3. ILLUMINATION STAGE

- The 'Aha' or 'I have found it' experience.
- The moment we normally associate with emergence of creative ideas.
- Feeling of excitement of having found a creative idea.

4. VERIFICATION

- Worth or appropriateness of ideas or solutions are tested and judged.
- Convergent thinking plays its role in selecting the appropriate idea or solution that works .

BARRIERS TO CREATIVE THINKING

- **Fixations:** Tendency to repeat wrong solutions and to “fixate” on them, or to become blind to alternatives.
- **Functional Fixedness:** Inability to see new uses (functions) for familiar objects or for things that were used in a particular way.
- **Emotional Barriers:** Inhibition and fear of making a fool of oneself or of making a mistake.
- **Cultural Barriers:** Belief that fantasy is a waste and feelings and humour have no place in problem solving.
- **Learned Barriers:** Taboos, staying with conventional uses.
- **Perceptual Barriers:** Habits leading to a failure to identify important elements of a problem.