

Constructivism in a nutshell

What is pedagogy?

Pedagogy, the science of teaching and learning, is based on the theories of learning.

Pedagogy in the 20th century

The salient features of 20th century pedagogy

- Well structured education system
- instructional objectives
- teacher-centered teaching
- drill and practice
- Reinforcement
- memorization

Constructivism

In the late 1970s and 1980s many educationist began to criticize the teaching –learning practice based on behaviorist school. Through this teaching the students failed to

- Develop ability to work collaboratively
- Construct knowledge independently and collaboratively
- Develop divergent thinking for discovering new things

Because of these shortcomings, constructivism emerged as an alternative

What is constructivist theory?

Constructivism is a theory about how people learn. It contends that people construct their own understanding and knowledge of the world, through:

1. **experiencing things**
2. **and reflecting on those experiences.**

According to the theory when we learn new information, we have to associate it with our previous ideas and experience. The new information may:

1. change what we believe,
2. or may lead us to discard the new information as irrelevant.