Date: __.__.____

EXPT. NO. ..... PAGE NO. .....

# Cognitive Development Theory (Jean Piaget)

Jean Piaget, a Swiss psychologist was particularly concerned with the way thinking developed in children from birth till they become young adults. To understand the nature of this development, Piaget carefully observed the behaviour of his own three kids. He used to present problems of them, observe responses slightly after the situations and again observe their responses. Piaget called this method of exploring development clinical interview.

Piaget believed that humans also adapt to their physical and social environments in which they live. The process of adaptation begins since birth. Piaget saw this adaptation in terms of two basic processes, Assimilation and Accommodation.

Assimilation — It refers to process by which new objects and events are grasped or incorporated within the scope of existing schemes or structures.

Accommodation — It is the process through which the existing schemes or structured are modified to meet the resistance to straight-forward grasping or assimilation of a new object or event.

Teacher's Signature: .....

Scanned with OKEN Scanner

## Stages of Cognitive Development

1. Sensory-Motor Stages (Birth to 2 years):
Children learn about the world entirely through their senses and physical actions (like touching, grasping, and looking)

By coordinating these sensory and motor experiences, they begin to construct schemas (basic knowledge units).

During this time, they develop the key concept of object permanence - the understanding that objects continue to exist even when they can't be seen.

2. Preoperational Stages (2 to 7 years): This stage called pre-operational because the children have not yet mastered the ability to perform mental operations. Children's thinking during this stage is governed by what is seen rather than by logical principles.

Following are the accomplishments of Pre-operational stage:

a. Semantic function - ability to think using symbols and signs.

b. Egocentrism - children believe that their way of thinking is the only way to think.

Scanned with OKEN Scanner

Date: __.__.____

EXPT. NO. ..... PAGE NO. .....

c. Decentering :- difficulty to seeing more than one dimension or aspects of situation. It is called decentering.

d. Animism - Children tend to refer to inanimate objects as if they have life-like qualities and are capable of actions.

e. Seriation — lack of ability of classification or grouping objects into categories.

f. Conservation — certain properties of an object remain the same.

3. Concrete Operational stage (7 to 11 years) :
At this stage a child is concerned with the integration of stability of his cognitive systems. He learns to add, subtract, multiply and devide. He is in a position to classify concrete objects. In short, children develop the ability of rational thinking but their thinking is tied to concrete objects.

4. Formal operation stage (11 & above) :- This type is characterized by the emergence of logical thinking and reasoning. Other important cognitive attainments during this period are: the ability to think about the hypothetical possibilities and to solve problems through logical deductions and in systematic manner.

Teacher's Signature: .....

Scanned with OKEN Scanner