

1.2 GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT – CONCEPT AND DEFINITION :

Defination :

Human life begins with the birth of a child. From the moment of conception to death, growth, development and change is taking place constantly both in physical and psychological aspects. Thus it can be said that – human being is never static. In the development of a human being, two important antagonistic processes take place simultaneously throughout life. They are – growth or evolution and atrophy or evolution. In the early years of life, growth predominates, and in the later part of life, atrophy predominates, even then, growth occurs constantly and does not stop. For example – hair continues to grow, cells are replaced continuously.

But with age, some changes in the body takes place which cannot be revived, i.e., eye sight.

Growth and development have been interchangeably used by most of the developmental psychologists because both the processes are inter-related and inter-dependent on each other. Thus the word 'Growth' means an increase in size, height and weight. It simply implies to the growth of some internal organs like the heart, brain and body. Growth can be referred as quantitative change whereas development is qualitative changes takes place in the body. Development means change in shape, form or structure resulting in improved functioning. When body grows in structure it also develops in function. ~~The growth and development is~~