

**GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING, 2ND YEAR, COURSE-11(D), UNIT -02,
TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES OF GUIDANCE, -----BY RAJU KUMAR
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2.5 STANDARDIZED TECHNIQUES

There are four types of standardized tests. These include achievement, interest, aptitude and personality testing. There is some overlap in these categories, especially in interest and personality. Let us examine these one by one.

2.5.1 Aptitude Tests

Aptitude may be defined as a trait that characterizes an individual's ability to perform in a specific area or to acquire the learning necessary for performance in a given area. It presumes an inherent or natural ability that can be developed to its maximum through learning or other experiences. However, it cannot be expanded beyond a certain point, even by learning. In theory, then, an aptitude test measures the potential of one to achieve in a given activity or to learn to achieve in that activity.

Aptitude tests may potentially be used by counsellors and others because

- (1) they may identify potential abilities of which the individual is not aware;
- (2) they may encourage the development of special or potential abilities of a given individual;

- (3) they may provide information to assist an individual in making educational and career decisions or other choices between competing alternatives;
- (4) they may serve as an aid in predicting the level of academic or vocational success an individual might anticipate; and

- (5) they may be useful in grouping individuals with similar aptitudes for developmental and other educational purposes.

Special Aptitude Tests

You might have seen or heard about clerical aptitude test, numerical ability test, etc. Special aptitude tests usually refer to those that seek to measure an individual's potential ability to perform or to acquire proficiency in a specific occupation or other type of activity. Tests that measure special aptitude are sometimes referred to as single aptitude tests because they only secure a measure for one specific aptitude. Counsellors, most frequently use standardized tests to measure a single aptitude in areas of mechanical, clerical,

or artistic abilities. Single aptitude tests have also been developed for use in various graduate and professional schools. Aptitude tests are also available for particular school subjects.