

Pedagogy Vs Andragogy

Adult learning is a vast area of educational research and probably one of the most complicated. Adults learn differently and have different strategies in learning. Adults Learning Theory and Principles explain in details these strategies and sheds more light on how adults cultivate knowledge. Talking about adult learning brings us to the concept of Andragogy. According to the article Malcolm Knowles an American practitioner and theorist of adult education, defined andragogy as “the art and science of helping adults learn”. Knowles identified the six principles of adult learning as:

- Adults are internally motivated and self-directed
- Adults bring life experiences and knowledge to learning experiences
- Adults are goal oriented
- Adults are relevancy oriented
- Adults are practical
- Adult learners like to be respected

Pedagogy vs. Andragogy

	Pedagogical	Andragogical
The Learner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The learner is dependent upon the instructor for all learning • The teacher/instructor assumes full responsibility for what is taught and how it is learned • The teacher/instructor evaluates learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The learner is self-directed • The learner is responsible for his/her own learning • Self-evaluation is characteristic of this approach
Role of the Learner’s Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The learner comes to the activity with little experience that could be tapped as a resource for learning • The experience of the instructor is most influential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The learner brings a greater volume and quality of experience • Adults are a rich resource for one another • Different experiences assure diversity in groups of adults • Experience becomes the source of self-identify
Readiness to Learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are told what they have to learn in order to advance to the next level of mastery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any change is likely to trigger a readiness to learn • The need to know in order to perform more effectively in some aspect of one’s life is important • Ability to assess gaps between where one is now and where one wants and needs to be
Orientation to Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning is a process of acquiring prescribed subject matter • Content units are sequenced according to the logic of the subject matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners want to perform a task, solve a problem, live in a more satisfying way • Learning must have relevance to real-life tasks • Learning is organized around life/work situations rather than subject matter units
Motivation for Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily motivated by external pressures, competition for grades, and the consequences of failure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal motivators: self-esteem, recognition, better quality of life, self-confidence, self-actualization