

Minor Elective Paper For U.G. Students

PROBLEM SOLVING AND CREATIVE THINKING

Course Objective:

To enable the students:

- Understand the process of problem solving and creative thinking.
- Facilitation and enhancement of skills required for decision-making.

Course Contents:

Module I: Thinking as a tool for Problem Solving

(12 Hours)

- What is thinking: The Mind/Brain/Behavior
- Critical Thinking and Learning:
 - Making Predictions and Reasoning
 - Memory and Critical Thinking
 - Emotions and Critical Thinking
- Thinking skills

Module II: Hindrances to Problem Solving Process

(12 Hours)

- Perception
- Expression
- Emotion
- Intellect
- Work environment

Module III: Problem Solving

(12 Hours)

- Recognizing and Defining a problem
- Analyzing the problem (potential causes)
- Developing possible alternatives
- Evaluating Solutions
- Resolution of problem
- Implementation
- Barriers to problem solving:
 - Perception
 - Expression
 - Emotion
 - Intellect
 - Work environment

Module IV: Plan of Action

(12 Hour)

- Construction of POA
- Monitoring
- Reviewing and analyzing the outcome

Module V: Creative Thinking

(12 Hours)

- Definition and meaning of creativity
- The nature of creative thinking
 - Convergent and Divergent thinking
 - Idea generation and evaluation (Brain Storming)
 - Image generation and evaluation
 - Debating
- The six-phase model of Creative Thinking: ICEDIP model

Suggested Readings:

- Michael Steven: How to be a better problem solver, Kogan Page, New Delhi, 1999
- Geoff Petty: How to be better at creativity; Kogan Page, New Delhi, 1999
- Richard Y. Chang and P. Keith, Kelly: Wheeler Publishing, New Delhi, 1998.
- Phil Lowe Koge Page: Creativity and Problem Solving, New Delhi, 1996
- J William Pfeiffer (ed.) Theories and Models in Applied Behavioural Science, Vol 3, Management (1996); Pfeiffer & Company
- Bensley, Alan D.: Critical Thinking in Psychology – A Unified Skills Approach, (1998), Brooks/Cole Publishing Company.

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