

Selected Readings
in Educational
Psychology

Nor Azian Md. Noor

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SELECTED READINGS IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Nor Azian Bt. Md. Noor

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
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GOMBAK



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CHAPTER 2

HISTORICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONALITY STUDY

**Mohd Abbas Abd Razak
Nik A. Hisham
Nik Suryani Nik Abd. Rahman
Ssekemeya Siraje Abdallah**

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the historical and philosophical developments in the areas of human nature and personality development in the Western world will be explored.

Studies on personality development in the West have come a long way. The history of personality development reveals that early studies on personality development in the West were initiated by the Greek philosophers. Since then, personality studies have grown in numbers giving rise to a wide range of divergent theories. In the West, what seemed to have started as a philosophical approach to the study on personality, later changed to empirical and scientific approaches. This shift in the paradigm should be rightly attributed none other than to the advancement of knowledge and its obsession towards scientific approach in finding answers to the problems faced by humanity.

By going through the existing researches and their results achieved by Western psychologists, one will discover that much of the research done by the Western scholars on personality reveals that personality development in an individual is a thing evolutionary in nature. That is, it emerges as a result of one's learning experiences, interaction with others and the environment, and also due to intrinsic and extrinsic