



INTELLIGENCE

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SPEARMAN TWO-FACTOR THEORY

- Developed by Charles Spearman, an English psychologist in the year 1904.
- He proposed intellectual abilities are composed of two factors:
 - i) 'g- factor' or general ability
 - ii) 's- factor' or specific ability



CHARACTERISTICS OF GENERAL FACTOR:

- Universal inborn ability
- General mental ability
- g-factor differs from individual to individual
- Used in everyday life activities
- Amount of 'g' is directly proportional to the amount of success in life of an individual.
- Depend on the amount of cortical energy present in the individual.



CHARACTERISTICS OF SPECIFIC FACTOR:

- It is learned and acquired from the environment
- Varies from individual to individual
- Varies from activity to activity in the same individual



CRITICISMS OF THE THEORY:

- Howard Gardner proposed 9 domains of intelligence as a criticism to his theory.
- Spearman held that intelligence may be expressed in terms of 2 factors but there can be several specific factors.
- Each job requires some specific ability. General factor was common for all the jobs but professions like that of a nurse, doctor or compounder could not be in one group; the factors are not mutually exclusive but overlap.

This overlapping and grouping resulted in the development of group-factor theory.

