

## Editorial

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### Educational Domains

There are many categories of learning, each of which fall under three major domains: cognitive domain (knowledge), psychomotor domain (skills) and affective domain (attitudes). This categorization is best explained by the Taxonomy of Learning Domains formulated by Benjamin Bloom in 1956.

#### A. Cognitive domain

The cognitive domain contains learning skills predominantly related to mental processes. Here all the cognitive processes are included in a hierarchy pattern from the mere recall of facts or recognition of information through comprehension and understanding to an ability to solve problems. It also includes intellectual abilities and thinking skills.

The cognitive domain encompasses of following six categories:

1. **Knowledge:** Knowledge in general refers to recall or remembering of previously learned information. It is based on memory. Example: A child recites the English alphabets.
2. **Comprehension:** It is the ability to understand the meaning of what is known. Example: A student explains a theory in his own words.
3. **Application:** It is the ability to use learned knowledge in a new situation. Example: An intern applies what he learned in her anatomy dissection classes when he deals a surgical case.
4. **Analysis:** It means breakdown of knowledge into component parts and establishing relationship among them. Example: A lawyer was able to win over a case after recognizing logical fallacies in the reasoning of the offender.
5. **Synthesis:** It is the ability to integrate different elements or concepts in order to form a sound pattern or structure. Example: A therapist

combines yoga, biofeedback and support group therapy in creating a care plan for his patient.

6. **Evaluation:** It is ability to judge, check, and even critique the value of material for a given purpose. At this level of learning a student can create a variety of ways to solve the problem and then, based on established criteria and evidence, select the solution method best suited for the problem. Example: A doctor selects the most effective antihypertensive drug for a particular patient.

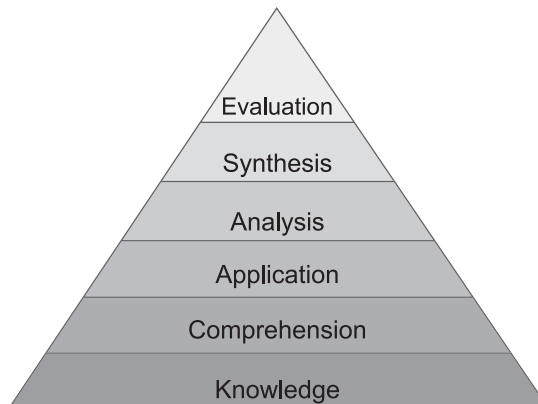


Fig 1: Bloom's Taxonomy of cognitive domain

#### B. Psychomotor domain

This domain deals with practical skills that include physical actions and reflexes. This is concerned with the physically encoding of information, with movement and/or with activities where the gross and fine muscles are used for expressing or interpreting information or concepts. This area also refers to natural, autonomic responses or reflexes. The psychomotor domain is comprised of utilizing motor skills and coordinating them. Learning outcome example: A medical student studying to be a surgeon will need to know how to perform an incision.

### C. Affective domain

This domain includes the manner in which we deal with things emotionally, such as feelings, values, appreciation, enthusiasms, motivations, and attitudes; Attitude towards profession, patient and peers and cooperativeness with co-worker. Affective domain includes ethical aspects also. Learning outcome example: learner will develop appropriate attitude to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and their relatives. We should appreciate that learning of attitude is a very specialized area and deserves more consideration than what is being given today.

Developing and delivering lessons by teachers are integral in the teaching process. It is hence important for teachers to ensure that the three domains of learning which include cognitive (thinking), affective (emotions or feeling) and Psychomotor (Physical or kinesthetic) to be achieved during teaching-learning process.

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