

Sources of dissonance

- **Logical inconsistency** for example knowing something is bad or harmful yet one continues to indulge in it such as cigarette smoking, stealing, etc.
- **Inconsistency with cultural practices** – when one holds beliefs that go against the culture, dissonance occurs for example when a community believes in female circumcision but a school girl does not want to be circumcised
- **Inconsistency between a particular behaviour and the general trend of behaviour** – for example a learner is always obedient and honest and tells a lie at one time. This learner may experience dissonance after telling the lie.
- **Where the event does not fit our past experience** – for example when an old friend does not return a greeting.

Attitudes in Educational Settings

Learners will have attitudes about themselves, the school, teachers and subjects. These attitudes will affect learning. Attitudes can be changed by:

- Using the peer group – for example if a child has a negative attitude to school, cries and refuses to go to school, point at other children who are going to school and tell him “look at that boy, he is going to school and he is not crying”
- Allowing room for first experience – this is more effective than telling learners about something for example, if children have heard that a teacher is bad, let that teacher teach the children so the children can realise that the teacher is not bad
- Using effective communication – using language level that children can understand and also providing correct information so attitudes will not be based on incorrect information