

Abstract

The present study examines works of Sa'adi, who renowned Iranian scholars consider to be almost the first teacher in his time, 700 years ago. He taught moral and educational lessons to all Iranian families as a social reformer. He is also considered one of the greatest educational poets of Iran. For a long time, Sa'adi's books were taught in schools before schools came into their present form. The aim of this study is to compare learning theories in two works of Sa'adi, *Bustan* and *Golistan*, and the Environmentalist, Albert Bandura's theory of learning. The method of content analysis of Sa'adi's works is utilized to investigate his theories about education, child nature, stages of education, manner of education, purpose of education, child-centeredness, importance of the teacher, teaching method, motivation inheritance and the role of punishment and encouragement in behavior and learning. The findings show that both Sa'adi and Bandura believed in the effect of social environment and observing in learning and behavior, while Bandura advocates the cognitive factors, Sa'adi favors heritage.

Keywords: Sa'adi, learning theories, environmental influence, Bandura, content analysis method