Developing Multiple Intelligences through Different Learning Styles: An Integrated Approach to Learner-centered Pedagogy

Mohammad Danish Mahmood[1], Bareq Raad Raheem[1], Raashid Nehal[1]

[1]*Faculty of Art, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Aligarh, UP -202002, India*

Corresponding Author: Mohammad Danish Mahmood
Email: danishmahmood2016@gmail.com

Article Info	Abstract
	The present paper deals with the theoretical underpinnings of various learning styles by Carl Jung and the different types of intelligences by Howard Gardner. The purpose of this paper is to integrate various learning styles with different types of intelligences. The main concern here is to understand how each learning style could be incorporated with every intelligence so as to make the pedagogy a learner-centered approach.

Introduction

The theory of Multiple Intelligences when combined with the theory of learning styles opens the door for raising different types of Intelligences of a learner. It is apparent from the theory of Multiple Intelligences by Howard Gardener that every individual possesses all intelligences. However, the level of development of these intelligences may vary from individual to individual. Hitherto the standard of intelligences, which are in the feeble state, could be throttled by various styles of learning which were proposed by Carl Jung in 1927 in his theory of Learning Styles. The paper focuses on an approach to integrate these two theories to develop the intelligences which are not as developed and visible as the ones which are noticeable (Gardner, 2010). Moreover, it also entails the fact that various learning styles could be used to escalate the hidden intelligences by making the learners follow the styles which are suitable for them. Thus, the study could be a practical way of improving the several intelligences which are present at different levels in an individual.

Theoretical Framework

The Theory of Multiple Intelligences was put forth (Power of Positivity, 2009-2015) in 1983 by Howard Gardner who states that there are eight types of Intelligences in human beings. Out of these eight intelligences an individual may excel in a few of them and struggle in others at the same time (Ruggieri, 2002; Moran et al., 2006). Apart from this the theory explains only the presence and recognition of various types of intelligences. In other words, it is content-based and deals only with the identification of strengths and weaknesses in an individual. The different types of Multiple Intelligences are as follows; (1) Musical Intelligence; (2) Spatial/ Visual Intelligence; (3) Naturalistic Intelligence; (4) Linguistic Intelligence; (5) Bodily/ Kinesthetic Intelligence; (6) Interpersonal Intelligence; (7) Intrapersonal Intelligence; (8) Logical – Mathematical Intelligence

Learning Style Theory was proposed by Carl Jung in 1927, and he came up with the notion that people have different ways of perceiving information (Weinstein, 2014). This affects the way people learn things and grasp information. Therefore, this theory is based on the process of learning. It has been supported by many theorists like Harvey Silver, Bernice McCarthy, and J. Robert Hanson. Many Learning Style theorists agree on two points that are involved in all learning style models; (a) A focus on process; (b) Emphasis on personality.

With the view of these two points in mind the four basic learning style models which are agreed upon by most theorists are as follows: (1) The Mastery Style Learning: This type of learning occurs when a learner pays attention to the outlook of the subject matter. It is the way in which a learner perceives the topic at hand; (2) The Understanding Style Learning: This learning takes place inside the head of a learner. However, this may involve inquiry and discussions, but mostly it is the logical thinking and rationale of the learner which is involved in such style; (3) The Self-Expressive Style Learning: In this style, a learner gets encouragement by performing the skill or art (or any of the Multiple Intelligences) which has been acquired by the learner. Hence, the acquiring of a particular vocation is usually a result of the natural inclination of an individual to his/her interest; (4) The Interpersonal Style Learning: This type of learning is a process which involves a keen interest in interactions and involvement of others in the learner's life. This is similar to Mastery Style learning because it requires perception, although this perception is moulded through social interactions.

Results and Discussion

The method to integrate Multiple Intelligences with various learning styles is a daunting task and requires efforts on the part of the mentor (Gündüz & Ünal, 2016; Hussein et al., 2017). Once it is done, the integration of both the theories could be beneficial to students in a way that suits them. They might be able to raise the level of their intelligences which are present in them in a feeble state. A teacher may apply all the four styles of learning on each of the intelligences one by one and note the response of individual learners (Hall Haley, 2004; Mokhtar et al., 2008; Landrum & McDuffie, 2010). Thus, the best method to teach a particular learner could be found out. The integration of each of the Multiple Intelligences with every learning style works out in the following manner:

Musical Intelligence

Mastery Style Learning: This takes into account the ability and potential of an individual to understand and create music just by listening to it. Understanding Style Learning: It relates to the ability to understand music in a manner in which a learner can differentiate between good and bad compositions. Self-Expressive Style Learning: This style involves rendition by the learner which encourages him/her by providing intrinsic motivation. The learning takes place as the learner tries to take into consideration the finer aspects of music. Interpersonal Style Learning: This involves playing music for other people and also playing in a choir or group. Moreover, it works through synchronization and with the cooperation of various musicians together as a band.

Spatial/ Visual Intelligence

Mastery Style Learning: This type of learning is achieved by activities that involve real-life drawing and painting. Sketches and maps of places and surrounding areas could also help in this regard.

Understanding Style Learning: This could be done by providing students with diagrams, sketches and paintings and letting them ponder over them so that they can understand the subtle

depths of these pieces of art. Self-Expressive Style Learning: This is the most liked learning style amongst young learners. One must ask the learners to feel free to draw or paint whatever they want. Their imaginations should be let loose in this type of learning. Interpersonal Style Learning: This type of learning could be achieved through the mutual collaboration of students to add or remove various items they like or dislike in a work of art like painting or drawing. It could be done easily in a smart classroom.

Linguistic Intelligence

Mastery Style Learning: This learning takes place when a learner is exposed to the language, and he/ she acquires it through personal observation. Continuous input and repetition make the learner acquire the language.

Understanding Style Learning: This happens when a learner acquires the language from the environment around him/her which leads to the analysis of the target language and ultimately results in the development of it. In other words, the learner comprehends the nuances of the language and grasps it through sheer observation.

Self-Expressive Style Learning: This style of learning could be used by making the learners come up with presentations, speeches, and debates, etc.

Interpersonal Style Learning: In this style, a learner is exposed to situations in which s/he is made to use the language effectively. This also involves interaction with the students in group discussions.

Naturalistic Intelligence

Mastery Style Learning: In the mastery style of learning, an individual learner observes and perceives nature in his/ her unique way and learns a great deal from it. Understanding Style Learning: This style follows the mastery style, as after the observation, comes the use of logic to understand the various phenomena found in nature. Self-Expressive Style Learning: This is again the expression or putting forward of the feelings related to the natural world. Usually, poetry involves the expression of intense feelings and appreciation of nature which comes under the purview of this style. Interpersonal Style Learning: Interpersonal style involves working with others to protect nature and to interact with them about the concerns related to it and its various aspects.

Bodily/Kinesthetic Intelligence

Mastery Style Learning: This is the learning style in which one recognizes the potential and limitations of one's own body. This makes the individual adapt his/her body to use the tools. This could be observed in any sport where some equipment is used to play with.

Understanding Style Learning: This type of learning style is used by an individual to observe and ponder at different aspects to understand the details and intricacies involved in the movement of the body. Generally, gymnasts utilize this style to extend the limits of their bodies.

Self-Expressive Style Learning: Self-expressive style of learning corresponds to the performance of an individual in front of others. This boosts the confidence of a performer and the more an individual practices, the deft s/he becomes.

Interpersonal Style Learning: It refers to the style of learning in which a person learns through coordination with other individuals. It generally takes place through the consultation and imitation of the movements from others.

Interpersonal Intelligence: Mastery Style Learning: Mastery Style learning occurs when an individual is given a task for management and s/he is able to sort and organize it in an effective manner.

Understanding Style Learning: This type of learning takes place when a person is made to analyze and interpret different notions, ideas, and beliefs.

Self-Expressive Style Learning: This learning type improves Interpersonal Intelligence through the use of rhetoric so that it inspires others. It is also used to revolutionize people.

Interpersonal Style Learning: The learning occurs when a person connects with other people in such a manner that one feels their pain, sorrows, and joys. The quality of empathy is the key aspect in such kind of learning.

Intrapersonal Intelligence: Mastery Style Learning: This type of learning occurs through the introspection of one's capabilities. It ultimately helps in achieving the aims by a learner, which s/he sets after due considerations of personal competency.

Understanding Style Learning: Understanding style of learning takes place when a person formulates new concepts and hypotheses through logical and rational thinking.

Self-Expressive Style Learning: This type of learning configures a learner's ability to express or present one's perception to others.

Interpersonal Style Learning: It concurs to the learning style in which a person utilizes his/her thinking to help and serve others.

Logical – Mathematical Intelligence: Mastery Style Learning: This is the type of learning that is acquired when an individual recognizes or uses numbers to calculate and describe a pattern they follow.

Understanding Style Learning: This type of learning results in the formulation and establishment of theorems, corollaries, proofs and logical conjectures which are used to develop more recognizable patterns.

Self-Expressive Style Learning: Self-expressive learning style helps in identifying patterns and designs found in the field of mathematics. An individual takes delight in presenting mathematical solutions to others.

Interpersonal Style Learning: This style of learning makes the learner learn through the use of mathematics in daily lives. The use of mathematics in individuals' day-to-day lives, which results from interactions (usually takes place during commercial transactions) is the key component of this learning.

Conclusion

The current study reveals a way of integrating different learning styles with multiple intelligences to raise an individual's weaker level of intelligences. There could be several ways in which this integration might be explored according to different views of individual teachers. This might help them remove the complexity of the integration as there might be perceptions of other teachers who would like to take the study with a higher degree of understanding. Moreover, the integration requires teachers to segregate students into groups according to their individual learning styles. This would help them strengthen the intelligences present in the students in weak form. All these styles of learning, as explained above, are not absolute in their application. An individual might be using all or a couple of these styles to raise his/her knowledge. One must note that each of these styles overlaps one another, just like the eight

types of Multiple Intelligences. Generally, it is seen that an individual unconsciously prefers two styles. Out of which, one type of learning style is used more and another style less. Thus, we can see that these are natural ways of learning or acquiring any of the identified Multiple Intelligences. So, it is an innovative way of teaching the students through the integration of both theories. This could help the students elevate the level of intelligences present in weak form.

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