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The Effect of Learning Styles on Education and the Teaching Process**Smt.Umashree.B.**

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Abstract

"Learning style is all of the cognitive, affective and psychological characteristics which reflect the individual's perceptions on his/her environment" - **Keefe**

Style is a concept used in the fields of fashion, art, sports and media.. From this point of view, individual's References are central. When this concept is considered in educational content, it is seen that every student has his, /her own learning style. These differences (personality, perception, ability, intelligence) affect students' motivation and attitudes towards the lessons.

As a result, these differences affect the effectiveness of the lesson. Beside those, the student's gender, intelligence and personal characteristics influence the learning style as well. As the learning style is related to individual characteristics and References, learning styles reflect the students' References on how they perceive the environment, interact with this environment, react and experience learning in this process. When individual learning styles are determined, both the kind of the teaching environment they need to be in and the way to precisely determine the issues to be learned inside and outside of the class may be raised. When the lessons are taught by taking into consideration the individuals' learning styles; their interests and successes increase considerably. What is important here is that learning styles are neither better nor worse than each other. If a teacher keeps this matter in mind, s,/he can turn this difference into an advantage.

Key Words: Learning Styles, Kolb's Learning Style, Class Room Environment

History of Learning Style

In 1904, Alfred Binet (French psychologist) developed first intelligence test. In 1907, Dr.Maria Montessori invented the Montessori Method of education. She began using materials to enhance the learning styles of her students.Believed that students demonstrate mastery through their actions.In 1950 - 1970, the study of learning styles declined for around fifty years due to the emphasis on IQ and academic achievement.In 1956, Blooms Taxonomy (Benjamin Bloom) a step towards defining learning style differences.In 1962, Isabel Myers-Briggs and Katherine Briggs developed Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTD.In 1976, Dunn and Dunn learning style model was introduced, generating diagnostic instruments for evaluation. In 1984, David Kolb developed learning style that believed learning skills are closely related to cognitive skills.In 1990's emphasis placed on teachers addressing learning styles through curriculum adjustments that include each style.

Learning and the Senses

Effective teaching combines several approaches, or multi-sensory instruction, so the child uses more than one sense at a time while learning. Multi - Sensory approaches work well because of the way our brain is organized. When we learn, information takes one path into our brain we use our eyes, another when we use our ears and a yet a third when we use our hands. By using more than one sense we bombard our brain with the new information in multiple ways. As a result we learn

better. Rief (1993) says that students retain: 100% of what they read, 20% of what they hear, 30% of what they see 50% of what they see and hear 70% of what they say 90% of what they say and do.

Types of Learners

Visual Learners

Individuals who fall into this category typically learn through what they are able to see with their own eyes. Visual learners are those students who jockey for the positions at the front of the class, must have front row theater seats and love to be right up front for sporting events in order to obtain the best view. Visual learners have a tendency to describe everything that they see in terms of appearances. These learners love visual aids such as photos, diagrams, maps and graphs. Visual learners frequently are good writers and will commonly perform quite well on written assignments.

Auditory Learners

Auditory learners are very good listeners. They tend to absorb information in a more efficient manner through sounds, music, discussions, teachings, etc. These individuals will be more likely to record lectures so that they can replay them at a later time for study purposes. Auditory learners appreciate books on tape and may find that reading aloud will help them to retain information. Rather than written reports, auditory learners tend to do better on oral presentations and reports.

Kinesthetic Learners

Kinesthetic learners are tactile learning. This means that they learn best through moving, doing, acting out and touching. Projects that are hands-on in nature are best for kinesthetic learners. Kinesthetic learners tend to become frustrated when they must sit for long periods of time. They enjoy conducting experiments, exploring and performing tasks (Visual 65%, Auditory 30%, Tactile 5%).

Benefits of Understanding Learning Style

It is important to keep in mind that every individual is a unique learner. No two people are exactly the same and no two people learn in exactly the same manner. There are many advantages and some of these benefits include:

Academic Advantages

- Maximizing your learning potential
- Succeed on all educational levels
- Understand how to best study and score better on exams and tests
- Overcome limitations in the classroom
- Reduces frustration and stress levels
- Expand your existing learning strategies

Personal Advantages

- Improve your self-confidence and self-esteem
- Learn how to best use your brain
- Gain insight into your own strengths as well as weaknesses
- Learn how to enjoy learning more
- Develop a motivation for learning

- How to maximize your natural abilities and skills

Professional Advantages

- Stay up to date on professional topics
- Gain an edge over the competition
- Manage teams in a more effective manner
- Learn how to deliver more effective presentations
- Improve your sales skills
- increasing your earning power

Class Room Environment

Considering the classroom, one should know that classroom environment is a place full of various stimuli. But it should be remembered that teaching is an art of instruction. The teacher has to maximize the stimuli as much as possible. Students with these different styles will be affected not only by the stimuli in the classroom but also by the stimuli at home. When the teacher discovers these styles of the students and shares this with the parents, s/he will ensure that learning serves its goal. That is, for a student with an auditory learning style, the teacher should ask parents to provide the student with a room or desk away from noise. The goal is to realize learning and to encourage the student to revise outside of school, at home, after eliminating any negative situations. In this way, the student will transfer the learning into the real life.

Different Learning Style

- Lecture - teacher talks all period
- Group discussion - teacher talks but encourages discussion
- Small groups - teacher aids (facilitates) group interaction
- Visual focus - teacher uses lots of visual aids
- Verbal focus - words, words & more words
- Logical sequence - teacher presents material in a step-by-step, reasonable format
- Random sequence - teacher jumps all over the place

Teacher Role

To achieve this success, both teachers and students should undertake many responsibilities, but the heaviest responsibility is on the teachers. The teachers should 'match teaching style and learning tasks to individual learners' preferred styles and provide a range of input styles and learning tasks so that the learners will sometimes get a task in their preferred style, sometimes in the other styles, so that they can improve. Lastly, the teachers should help the students to move from one less successful style to another by using teaching styles and thinking skills. The teachers should be concrete and practical, concerned with application. They should support the students' imagination, creativity and exploration of new possibilities. In other words, the teachers should teach them to be critical and challenging. It is not so difficult to understand the learning styles and recognize them. The important thing is to recognize the students' learning style. Studying with knowledge of the learning style helps an individual to reach his/her goals quickly.

Top 10 Memory Improvement Tips

- There are many techniques that have been proven to be quite effective for improving one's memory. These techniques offer great ways to enhance our recall, improve our memory and increase our ability to retain information.
- Focus attention on study materials. It is important to understand that one of the primary components of memory is attention. Begin by selecting a study location that is free from distractions, such as music, television, other people, etc.
- Avoid the temptation to cram by developing regular study session times. Many people fall into the trap of not studying regularly enough and then trying to cram all of their studying into a short period of time just prior to a test. Students who maintain regular study sessions are usually able to remember information much better than those students who attempt to cram it all into one long session.
- Organize and structure the materials. It has been discovered that information that structured in the memory in clusters that are related to one another. Try to group concepts that are similar to one another as well as terms together. Another effective method is to make an outline using your textbook and notes in order group concepts that are related to one another.
- Use mnemonic devices to better recall information. Mnemonic devices are special techniques that can help us in recalling information. Basically, it is just a way to remember certain pieces of information.
- An effective encoding technique is elaborative rehearsal. For instance, read the definition of an important term and then study the definition of that term. Next, read a description that is more detailed regarding the meaning of that term. By repeating this same process several times, we will be able to recall the information far easier.
- Establishing a relationship between memories that are already in existence and new ideas, can significantly improve the chance of recalling information that recently learned.
- Visualize concepts to improve recall abilities. Many students find they are able to maximize their study times by visualizing the information they need to learn. For example, pay special attention to charts, graphs, photographs and other graphics that accompany the material. When visual aids or clues are not available then create your own, such as drawing figures or charts in your notes. Using different colored pens and highlighters can also be an effective way to group ideas that are related.
- Teaching new ideas to someone else. Research indicates that reading materials aloud can dramatically improve your recall of the material. In a like manner, actually teaching the material to someone else can also improve recall ability. Try this technique out by studying with a friend or with a study partner. This is a great method that allows both of you to benefit and improve your recall abilities.
- Give extra attention to information that is difficult. Spend additional time with this information or even try restructuring it in order to remember it more easily.
- Change up the study routine. If you usually study in the afternoons, try studying in the morning or in the evenings instead. Adding a new element to your study sessions can often improve the effectiveness of your study techniques and improve your overall long-term recall.

Conclusion

Different styles of learning and the most effective memory techniques can help the students to become more in tune with the most efficient and effective methods for personally learn. Through this insight students can learn which study techniques work best for them and which methods are least effective' By maximizing the most effective study techniques student will be able to get more out of the classroom as well as they improved in educational success.

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