

A CONCEPTUAL STUDY ON LEARNING STYLES

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Abstract

Learning style is a popular concept in psychology and education and is intended to identify how people learn best. VARK model of learning classified as visual learners, auditory learners, reading/writing learners, kinesthetic learners is the most preferred learning style used in research. It has long been a question as to whether students learn best when teaching methods and school activities match their learning style, learning strengths, and preferences. The fame of this idea developed drastically amid the 1980s, in spite of the proof proposing that individual learning inclinations have almost no genuine effect on learning results. While the current research has discovered that coordinating training techniques to learning styles has no effect on instructive results, the idea of learning styles remains greatly well known

Key words: learning style, VARK

Introduction:

Many people prefer to learn in ways that are different from how other people of the same class, grade, age, nationality, race, culture, or religion prefer to learn. Even though some gifted students can learn proficiently without using their learning style preferences, low achievers perform significantly better when they capitalize on their preferences. A decade of research explained that both low and average achievers earn higher scores on standardized achievement tests and attitude tests when taught through their learning style preferences (Dunn, Griggs, Olson, Gorman, and Beasley 1995).

Even among family members, learning styles vary. Parents tend to have diametrically opposite learning styles, children often reflect the partial style of one parent but not the other, siblings learn differently from each other, and do not necessarily reflect either parent's style. Because of the differences between their styles, one sibling may perform well and another may perform inadequately or unevenly in traditional schools, which primarily respond to the styles of motivated, conforming, analytic learners. The siblings also relate differently to their parents. To identify students' learning styles accurately, teachers must have a reliable and valid instrument because some characteristics are not discernable, even to the experienced educator. The teachers may misinterpret and misunderstand the symptoms of students' behaviours.

Objectives of the Study:

- To provide awareness to the students and teachers about the students learning style.
- To find out the preferred learning style of students.

Research Methodology

The analysis of this paper is based on secondary data collected from the related websites, books and articles from different journals.

Review of Literature

Grace Fayombo (2015) studied the learning style, teaching strategies, academic achievement among the Psychology Undergraduates in Barbados. The total sample size is 171 of the same university. The tools used for analysis of data is Descriptive statistics, Anova, Multiple regression. The researchers concluded that VARK is the preferred learning style which influences academic achievement and most required teaching strategies

Praabhakar Venugopal Gantasala, Bhargvi (2009) focused on the influence of learning style. The total sample size is 63. The tools used for analysis is factor analysis, t-test, and correlation. The researchers found that VARK is the preferred learning style.

Anu and Anurada, Menna (2012) focused on the assessment of learning style preference among the undergraduate Medical students. The total sample size is 430. The researchers found that Visual is the highly preferred learning style

Sridhar Anand and Rajendraprasad (2016) studied on learning styles and their impact of science teaching among primary school students. The total sample size is 100 which is drawn from Karaikal district. Descriptive statistics is used as a tool for data analysis. The researchers concluded that visual is the most preferred learning style

Abbas Pourhossein Gilakjant (2012) studied on VARK learning style and their impact on English language teaching. The total sample size is 100. The researchers concluded that there is a significant impact of learning style on teaching process.

Introduction to conceptual frame work

There are many different ways of categorizing learning styles including Kolb's model and the Jungian learning styles. Neil Fleming's VARK model is one of the most popular representations. In 1987, Fleming developed an inventory designed to help students and others learn more about their individual learning preferences. In Fleming's model, which are often referred to as VARK learning styles, learners are identified by whether they have a preference for visual learning (pictures, movies, diagrams), auditory learning (music, discussion, lectures), reading and writing (making lists, reading textbooks, taking notes), or kinesthetic learning (movement, experiments, hands-on activities).

Visual Learners

Students inclining with this style are probably going to be given show and can learn through depiction. These students like to utilize rundown to keep up their development rate in learning and additionally orchestrating their thoughts and brain. Aside from that, visual students are anything but difficult to be irritated or change in centre by developments or activities, whereas, clamour, typically don't trouble them (Drago and Wagner 2004). In addition, visual students like to utilize figures, pictures, and representative apparatuses, for example, chart, flowcharts, chains of command, models, and bolt which speak to printed data. They likewise can disclose an idea to others by illustration a figure or picture (Murphy et al. 2004). Mill operator (2001) in his examination clarify that as much as 29 percent of the students are progressively disposed to visual learning style where they have knowledge in utilizing pictures, and optical figment and models in three dimensional frame. Students that have visual insight are normally rich with creative energy and are slated to be innovative and inventive (Piping 2005). If you think you might be a visual learner, answer the following questions:

- Do you have to see information in order to remember it?
- Do you pay close attention to body language?
- Are art, beauty, and aesthetics important to you?
- Does visualizing information in your mind help you remember it better?

If you can answer yes to most of these questions, chances are good that you have a visual learning style.

Aural Learners

Aural students pick up something by tuning in (Drago and Wagner 2004). These students give more consideration regarding the words conveyed by instructors. They like to tune in than composing address notes. After addresses end, they talk about points which were instructed with cohorts, as an approach to clear up their comprehension. To help with their learning style, aural students talk about on answers or by tuning in to recording over the examination points (Murphy et al. 2004). Students who learn with this mode are effectively interfered with clamor (Drago and Wagner 2004). As per Miller (2001), this sort of students can recollect data through boisterous perusing or mouthing when perusing, particularly when discovering some new information. Students can reinforce their memory by listening again to sound tape accounts, by showing other individuals and examining with instructors. Aural students as a rule read effectively, describe keenly, compose story or verse easily, learn outside dialect quick, have great vocabulary, spell easily, as to compose letters, and claim solid capacity in recalling names or certainties (Armstrong 2004).

Are you an auditory learner? Consider the following questions:

- Do you prefer to listen to class lectures rather than reading from the textbook?
- Does reading out loud help you remember information better?
- Would you prefer to listen to a recording of your class lectures or a podcast rather than going over your class notes?

- Do you create songs to help remember information?

If you answered yes to most of these questions, then you are probably an auditory learner.

Reading and Writing Learners

Students with the tendency of reading prefer printed word and content as a method to pick up the information. They like list, glossary, textbooks, lecture notes, or circulation. These students like to organise lecture notes into sketch form, paraphrase classroom notes, and study multiple choice exam questions (Murphy et al. 2004). Besides that, according to Drago and Wagner (2004), these students are note takers. They think about better through note taken from address or from troublesome perusing materials could you be a perusing and composing student?? Read through the following questions and think about whether they might apply to you.

- Do you find reading your textbook to be a great way to learn new information?
- Do you take a lot of notes during class and while reading textbooks?
- Do you enjoy making lists, reading definitions, and creating presentations?
- Do you prefer it when teachers make use of overheads and handouts?

If you answered yes to these questions, it is likely that you have a strong preference for the reading and writing style of learning.

Kinesthetic Learners

Learning through kinesthetic is a measurement mode, regarded to the combination of various sense functions. Priority kinesthetic experience and practice are achieved by the kinesthetic students. In other words, to learn something kinesthetic students should go through experience (Murphy et al. 2004). Drago and Wagner (2004) students emphasize more in experience in learning something and usually, they have high energy and prefer to apply touch movement, and describes the characteristics of students as those who interaction to their environment. Apart from that, the kinesthetic students are passive in class and dislike learning merely by listening and visual skills, and, typically, (Drago & Wagner 2004). According to Armstrong (2004), students that possess this type of intelligence are fond to move and are active, quick in learning physical skills, fond to think while moving, perform well in certain athletic field, many of the are likely to use movements as an aid for remembering various cases, have good coordination and awareness on tempo, and are easy to relax. Wolfman and Bates (2005), viewed that the kinesthetic learning style as able to increase students' learning motivation. Piping (2005) has proved that VARK learning style can enhance students' understanding as well as raise learning motivation and interest among students. Not sure if you're a kinesthetic learner? Answer these questions to find out:

- Do you enjoy performing tasks that involve directly manipulating objects and materials?
- Is it difficult for you to sit still for long periods of time?
- Are you good at applied activities such as painting, cooking, mechanics, sports, and woodworking?

- Do you have to actually practice doing something in order to learn it?

If you responded yes to these questions, then you are most likely a kinesthetic learner.

Conclusion:

Learning style is gaining importance not only in institutions but also in the organisation. We conclude that there is a variety of learning styles present in the classroom, here are some students who are not addressed by the standard lecture format. Furthermore, this study demonstrated that students prefer Visual learning style. Whereas it may differ for the organisation. There are any variables in the learning styles but the VARK is the most important of all others because it comprises of all types of learners with four aspects of learning. if we are aware of their learning style we can help students more effectively both in and out of the classroom, and can assist them in determining their preferences

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