

A CONCEPTUAL STUDY ON LEARNING STYLES

Dr. K.Vidyakala¹, Dr. Nithyakala², Dr. J.Deepa³, L.Prathibha⁴, P.Nandhini⁵

¹HoD, Department of Business Administration, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

²Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

³Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

⁴BBA Student, Department of Business Administration, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

⁵ Research Scholar (FT), Department of Business Administration, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract:

Learning styles refer to the variations in student's ability to accumulate as well as assimilate information. Basically, learning style is the method that best allows to gather and use knowledge in a specific manner. Most experts agree that there are three basic learning styles. Each individual may possess a single style or could possess a combination of different learning styles.

Key words: Learning Styles

Introduction:

The term learning styles is generally agreed that different learning styles exist and there is general acceptance that the manner "in which individuals choose to or inclined to approach a learning situation" and has an impact on performance and achievement of learning outcomes. (Cassidy 2004). Most experts agree that there are three basic learning styles. Each individual may possess a single style or could possess a combination of different learning styles. In most cases, the characteristics of a learning style can even be observed at a relatively young age. (Ldpride2008). Many educators explore the fact that a number of students have not learned well while in high school and elementary grades. Because of this, students now seem to know less and use despite the availability of the study materials. Likewise, students do not know how to think and study properly and effectively (Laguador 2013).

Objectives of the Study:

- To find the relationship between learning style and academic performance .

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

(Rongas et al., 2004) examined that learning programming is a difficult task since programming requires new concepts in thinking and creative skills in problem solving. A number of learning tools and environments have been built to assist both teachers and students in introductory programming courses. The study established a classification for these tools and they were divided into four categories: A) integrated development interface; B) visualization; C) virtual learning environments; and D) systems for submitting, managing, and testing of exercises. This classification is based on a review of existing tools, both commercial and freely available.

Coffield et al., (2004) conducted conflicting assumptions about learning and the best known models of learning styles. For example, some theories discussed in this report derive from research into brain functioning, where claims are made that specific neural activity related into brain functioning, where claims are made that specific neural activity related to learning can be identified in different areas of the brain. Other influential ideas derive from established psychological theories, such as personality traits, intellectual abilities and fixed traits which are said to form learning styles.

(Zualkernan et al., 2006) examined many studies addressing the relationship of learning style to outcomes in engineering courses, few have attempted direct cross-cultural comparisons. The study also investigated certain similarities and differences in the learning styles of computer science and engineering students at a Middle Eastern institution and an American university in the Midwestern United States. Comparative data on student learning style profiles and course outcomes suggested that, despite vast cultural differences, strong similarities exist between learning styles of these students. These findings have significant implications for the creation of globally effective teaching materials.

Conceptual frame work:

Learning Styles:

Technically, an individual's learning style refers to the preferential way in which the student absorbs processes, comprehends and retains information. Students learn differently from each other and it has been determined that brain structure influences language structure acquisition. It also has different hemispheres of the brain contain different perception avenues efficient methods of acquiring, processing, storing and manipulating information, based on the theory that individuals differ on best take in and work with information. It is necessary and vital evidence based variety of styles that an individual uses to absorb comprehend process remember and retain necessary and vital information to learn effectively and efficiently based on key questions factors and individual experience .It is also a vital tool to empower an individual with the material skills and tools to learn easily and effectively.It is an individual's natural or habitual pattern of acquiring and processing information in learning situations A core concept is that individual's differ in learning and the idea of individualized learning styles originated in the 1970s and has greatly influenced education proponents of the use of learning styles in education recommend that teachers assess the learning

styles of students and adapt the classroom methods to best fit each student's learning style. There are differences in individual thinking and ways of processing various types of information.

Effective teaching combines several approaches or multi-sensory instruction, so the child uses more than one sense at a time of learning. Multi-sensory approaches work well because of the way brain is organized. By using more than one sense bombard our brain with the new information in multiple ways. **Rief (1993)** says that students retain:

- 10% 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

It emphasizes the fact that individuals perceive and process information in very different way and the theory implies that how the individuals learn to do with and whether the educational experience is geared toward their particular style of learning.

According to Kolb believes learning style is the process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience. Based on his experiential learning theory, he came up with four different styles namely diverge, assimilator, converge, and accommodator. Diverge are capable to look at things from different perspectives. Assimilators prefer a logical approach to learning. Converge like to experiment with new ideas. Finally, accommodators like doing things, and get involved in new experiences.

According to Neil Fleming's model (1987), learners can be visual, auditory, reading & writing, Kinaesthetic. Visual learners learn best by seeing. Auditory learners learn best by hearing information. Reading and writing learners prefer to take in information displayed as words. Finally, Kinaesthetic (or tactile) learners learn best by touching and doing.

Relationship between Learning style and Academic performance:

Learning styles can be defined, classified, and identified in many different ways. It can also be described as a set of factors, behaviours, and attitudes that enhance learning in any situation. . Learning styles determine the academic performance of students to a great extent. Both learning styles and academic performance are interrelated and dependent on each other. There are students who come from different environment, localities etc. and have different levels of academic performance i.e., high and low. They also differ in the pattern of learning styles. Some students possess higher level of learning styles while the others have lower. Better the learning styles better is the academic performance. A better knowledge and understanding of learning styles may become important as classroom sizes increase and as technological advances continue to mould the types of students. Accommodating teaching to learning styles improves students' overall learning results and analysing students learning style will be very helpful and beneficial as it will help them to be attentive learners, which will eventually increase the academic performance Academic performance of the students is determined by their learning styles.

Conclusion:

From this study it is clear that there is a relationship between Learning style and academic performance. There exists a close association between learning style and academic performance of the students (Ghazhivakilli, 2014). From this study we can identify the preferred learning style of the students has an impact on their academic performance. And the most preferred learning style is modalities, which is the combination of two learning styles i.e. Visual and Auditory. Hence it is clear that academic performance of the students varies according to their learning styles.

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Grace Fayombo 2015 Learning Styles, Teaching Strategies and Academic Achievement Caribbean Educational Research Journal 46-61

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