

Learning Styles and Their Effect on the Academic Achievement of the Students

Abstract

Learning style is a pattern of behavior that human being use for new learning. Every person has a unique style of learning and every teacher need to know about the learning style of their pupil which is fit for them to make teaching learning process effective as every student learn in different ways and vary in their abilities to perform certain task. This paper will explain different styles of learning and their effect on the academic achievement of the students.

Keywords: Learning Styles, Teaching Learning Process, Academic Achievement.



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Introduction

Learning styles are simply the ways in which different person learn things. All the people have strength and abilities, but each person may have preferred way of using these abilities for learning. Learning styles is a pattern of behavior that human being use for learning. Dunn (2000) cites, "learning styles are biological and develop mentally determined set of personal characteristics that makes the identical instructions effective for some students and ineffective for others". According to the Runn Roy(2016), 'Learning styles are cognitive, affective and psychological ways learner perceive, interact with and respond to the learning environment. Students differ in the ways they approach the learning task and the behavior in learning situation determine their learning styles.

Different students with different learning styles understand and try to solve their problem in different relatively stable ways. There are different styles of learning which vary from person to person. For example, a person who learn best by seeing are called a visual learner and style is called as visual learning style and person who learn best by hearing (using sound and Music) are auditory learning styles. Individual learning styles depends on cognitive, emotional, heredity, experience and environmental factors.

Learning styles have a big contribution towards the academic achievement of the students. if the teacher knows about the learning styles of the student, that will help him to select his or her teaching strategy which ultimately results in enhancing the academic performance of the students. if there is mismatch exist between the learning styles of most of the students in the class and teaching method of a teacher then student become bored in the class as well as inattentive in the class which ultimately affect the academic performance of the students. Teacher's awareness of the students learning style will help him or her to select teaching strategy that would maximize the student's learning potential.

Rajshree S. Vaishnav (2013) Studied leaning styles and academic achievement of secondary school students. Findings of the study reveal that, kinesthetic learning style is found to be more prevalent than visual and auditory learning styles among kinesthetic learning style and academic achievement. The main effect of the three variables visual, auditory and kinesthetic is significant on academic achievement. Mehraj Ahmed Bhat and Punita Govil (2014) investigate the preferred learning style of secondary level students and its role in academic performance. The study also explored the difference in learning styles in relation to gender, residential background and type of institution. The findings of the study consisted of 510 secondary school students. Kolb's learning style inventory LSI was used to assess the preferred learning style of 10th grade student of south Kashmir. The student's previous examination scores were used to study the relationship between learning styles and academic achievement. The findings of the study reveal that majority of the student's shows accommodator and assimilator as their most preferred learning styles. The analysis of data reveals that learning styles affect academic performance of students. Naqvi(2017) conducted a study on learning styles, gender and



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academic performance on post graduate management students in India. Results of the study indicate that distribution of learning style type preference of the chosen sample of students was more concentrated towards assimilating and converging styles further results also indicate that performance scores of males were found higher in finance and marketing disciplines where as scores of females were higher in human resource and international business discipline irrespective of non consistency in all the groups. The study concludes that instructor should use a learning strategy matching with the style of each learner in different majors of management opted by students.

Aim of the Study

Aim of the study is to understand the different styles of learning and find out the relation between learning styles of the students and academic achievement.

Learning styles of the students have a great impact on the academic performance of the students. If the teachers do not adopt the right strategy according to the different styles of the learning then student poorly do in the academics and get discouraged about the studies which ultimately lead to the increase in the drop out of the students. Teachers also got discouraged about low test grades, unresponsive or hostile classes, dropouts, did not know something is not working properly

There are various types of learning styles; different scholars have given different concepts about it. Based on the dominate sensory gateway of knowledge there are VAK (Visual Audrey Kinetic model auditory learners who has learn best by listening and for their best method of evolved learn best by listening and for them best method of evolved teaching is lecture method, (V) visual learners learn

best in by seeing and for them audiovisual presentation is suitable method, kinesthetic learners learn by doing and for them learner-centered activity method, cooperative learning project method etc. are suitable (1999).

Kolb's Experiential Learning Theory (Learning Styles) Model

Kolb's learning theory sets out four distinct learning styles (or preferences), which are based on a four-stage learning cycle. (Which might also be interpreted as a training cycle). In this respect Kolb's model is particularly elegant, since it offers both a way to understand individual people's different learning styles, and also an explanation of a cycle of experiential learning that applies to us all.

Kolb's includes this 'cycle of learning' as a central principle his experiential learning theory, typically expressed as four-stage cycle of learning in which 'immediate or concrete experiences' provide a basis for 'observations and reflections'. These 'observations and reflections' are assimilated and distilled into 'abstract concepts' producing new implications for action which can be 'actively tested' in turn creating new experiences.

Kolb's Model Therefore Works on Two Levels- a Four-Stage Cycle

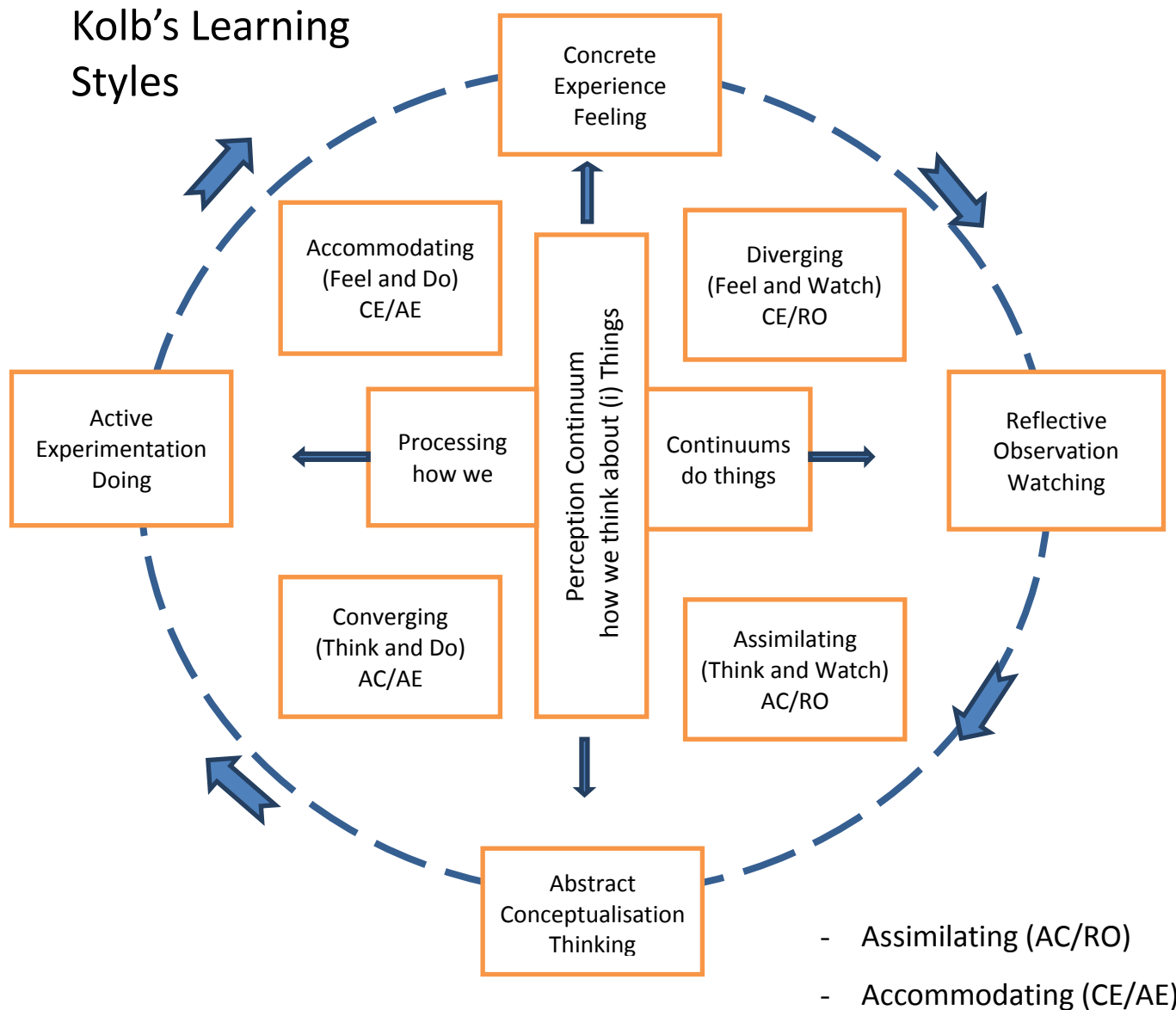
Concrete Experience (CE) - Reflective Observation (RO).

Abstract Conceptualization (AC)- Active Experimentations (AE) & a four-type.

Active Experimentation

Active Experimentation (AE) and a four-type definition of learning styles, (each representing the combination of two preferred styles, rather like a two-by-two matrix of the four-stage cycle styles, as illustrated below), for which Kolb used the term:

Kolb's Learning Styles



Kolb's explains that different people naturally prefer a certain single different learning style. Various factors a person's preferred style: notably in his experiential learning theory model (ELT) Kolb defined three stages styles of a person's development, and suggests that our propensity to reconcile and successfully integrate the four different learning styles improves as we through our development stages. The development stages that Kolb identified are:-

Acquisition

Birth to adolescence-development of basic abilities and 'cognitive structures'.

Specialization

Schooling, early work and personal experience of adulthood the development of a particular 'specialized learning style' shaped by 'social, educational, and organization socialization.

Integration

Mid-career through to later life expression of non-dominant learning style in work and personal life.

Here are Brief Descriptions of the Four Kolb Learning Styles

Diverging (Feeling and Watching-CE/RO)

These people are able to look at things from different perspectives. They are sensitive. They prefer to watch rather than do, tending to gather information and use imagination to solve problems. They are best at viewing concrete situations several different viewpoints. Kolb called this style 'Diverging' because these people perform better in situations that require ideas-generation, for example brainstorming. People with a Diverging learning styles have broad cultural interests and like together information. They are interested in people, tend to be imaginative and emotional, and tend to be strong in the arts. People with the Diverging style prefer to work in groups, to listen with an open mind and to receive personal feedback.

Assimilating (Watching and Thinking-AC/RO)

The Assimilating learning preference is for a concise, logical approach. Ideas and concepts are more important than people. These people require good clear explanation rather than practical opportunity. They excel at understanding wide-ranging information and organizing it a clear logical, format. People with an Assimilating learning styles are less focused on people and more interested in ideas and abstract, People with this style are more attracted to locally sound theories than approaches based practical value.

Converging (Doing and Thinking-AC/AE)

People with a Converging learning styles can solve problems and will use their learning to find solutions to practical issues. They prefer technical task, and are less concerned with people and interpersonal aspects. People with a Converging learning styles are best at finding practical uses for ideas and theories. They can solve problems and make decisions by finding solutions to questions and problem. People with a Converging learning style are more attracted to technical tasks and problems than

social or interpersonal issues. A Converging learning styles. Enables specialist and technology anilities. People with a Converging style like to experiment with new ideas, to simulate, and to work with practical applications.

Accommodating (Doing and Feeling-CE/AE)

The Accommodating learning styles is 'hands-on', and relies on intuition rather than logic. These people use other people's analysis, and prefer to take a practical, experiential approach. They are attracted to new challenges and experiences, and to carrying out plans. They commonly act on 'gut' instinct rather than logical analysis. People with an Accommodating learning style will tend to rely on others for information than carry out their own analysis. This learning style is prevalent and useful in roles requiring action and initiative. People with an Accommodating learning styles prefer to work in terms to complete tasks. They set targets and actively work in the field trying different ways to achieve an objective.

Silverman Learning Styles Model

Sensing Learners Concrete, practical, oriented towards facts and procedures	Intuitive Learners Conceptual, innovative, oriented towards theories and meanings
Visual Learners Prefer written and spoken explanations	Verbal Learner Prefer written and spoken explanations.
Inductive Learners Prefer presentations that proceed from the specific to the general	Deductive Learners Prefer presentations that go from the general to the specific
Reflective Learners Learn by thinking things through, working alone	Active Learners Learn by trying things out, working with others
Sequential Learners Linear, orderly, learn in small incremental steps, Global learners holistic, systems thinkers, learn in large leaps	Global Learners Holistic, systems thinkers, learn in large leaps.

Conclusion

It is found that there exist a number of learning styles .Different scholars have given different types but we can see that almost all are same. Each learning styles has its own advantages and disadvantages hence no style is superior or inferior. Hence knowing ones preferred learning style may help students to develop strategies to compensate weakness and build on strengths. Teachers should understand their students learning style preference which help their students to enhance academic performance. Identifying the individual student's learning style enable the teacher to prepare appropriate curriculum, effective lesson plans and thus presenting the information in an effective manner which is beneficial to their students. Teacher should design their lesson according all four learning styles using various combinations of experiences, reflection, conceptualization and experimentation. For example, if a student has visual learning style teacher should introduce elements such as picture presentation, mind maps, diagrams, color coding, role play etc.

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