Raising Achievement Level of Students through Learning Styles

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Much has been studied and researched about the students’ learning styles and its correlation to their achievement or performance; and most of these studies in classroom are premised on the problem of teachers on how to bring about effective learning of students and how to maintain their interest that brought them in the classroom.

Usually, a class is composed of about 40 pupils wherein multiple personalities arise and which a teacher has to deal with. According to some well-documented studies, people learn or perhaps to put it more accurately, prefer to learn, in different ways. Gardner (1999), points out that, in education, we all have faced the realization that individuals learn differently. It is a fact that there are several factors that affect pupils’ performance in the classroom. Learning style is one of these factors. Learning style is defined as the way in which an individual learns through the receiving, processing and recalling of information from the outside world.

Learning styles deal with one of three categories of style preference as claimed by the Institute for Learning Styles Research. (www.learningstyle.org)

1. Information Processing (Cognitive Processing)
   - The way we decode, encode, process, store and restrict information
   - Cognitive personality
   - This affects cognition span, level of motivation, interest risk taking, sociability and related elements

2. Instructional Preference (Teaching and Learning Setting)
   - Deals with sensory perception, physical environmental conditions, etc.
   - Instructional preference
   - Deals the way we want to learn
   - Self-report vs. paper-pencil

3. Perceptual Modality Learning
   (Gardner has identified 7 Intelligence)
   - Haptic- “hands on” approach on learning i.e., artwork, cartoon, doodles
   - Visual- learns by seeing or watching, attracted to virtually based multimedia
   - Aural- learns best through Listening
   - Interactive- prefers to discuss things with others
   - Kinesthetic- uses movement to help concentrate
   - Olfactory- learns but through the sense of smell and taste
   - Print- learns but through reading printed materials
Is it an assurance that a teacher can make his/her pupils learn best by identifying the learning styles of the learners through an inventory, then integrate these to the curriculum?

Research shows that (1) students should be taught through their perceptual strengths from the beginning (2) students can identify their preferences accurately and (3) younger children learn better through tactile-kinesthetic, experiences.

On the other hand, many studies on this topic are still on-going, hoping that the learning styles of the learners will offer best performance of students of properly inventoried and identified learning styles.

Reference: