THE THEORY OF MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE

by:
Maricel M. Cantara
Teacher III, Limay National High School

Intelligence is often described as the ability to learn and understand things. The old concept of intelligence is that a person is born ‘smart’ and as they grow up the intelligence only comes out.

In the previous decade there was a particular test in which one can measure someone’s intelligence. Using the I.Q. test or the Intelligence Quotient test one can measure the persons ‘smartness’. Basically, I.Q. test is a series of questionnaires given to people within the same age group to measure their cerebral capacity. But the problem with I.Q. testing is that it is very limiting. It does cover much in terms of skills sets and other ability, just vocabulary and logical reasoning.

But in 1983 a Harvard University Professor proposed a theory that every individual mind is unique to one another. In his book Frame of minds: The theory of Multiple Intelligence, Howard Gardner describe intelligence as a thing that one can learn to be. Gardner believes that a person can have several intelligences within a complex scheme of mind. That a person can excel at something and not the other but he or she can still be considered intelligent.

In his theory he proposed eight (8) types of intelligence which corresponds a facet of learning.

The first one is the Visual-Spatial Intelligence or the ability to see through the mind’s eyes. People who have this kind of intelligence learn better through visual stimulation and are very good at memorizing things they have read. These are the people
who have innate skill in using maps, puzzles, and other visual activities. They also have the ability to interpret what they have seen through arts like drawing and painting.

The second type of intelligence is the *Musical-rhythmic and harmonic Intelligence* or the ability to recognize notes, tempos, beats, and melodies. This is the type of intelligence which deals with musical prowess. People who develop this type of intelligence are more likely to be inclined to learn several musical instruments.

The third type of intelligence according to Gardner is the *Verbal-linguistic Intelligence* which is the type of intelligence that enables a person to understand and learn languages better. People with this kind of intelligence are very adept in writing and reading. They are those who are good at using words.

The next two types of intelligence are highly interconnected the *Inter-personal* and the *Intra-personal Intelligence*. The former which is also known as the Social Intelligence is the ability to communicate effectively with other people, while the latter is the ability to understand one’s self. Being Intra-personal intelligent means that someone is vastly aware of their strengths and weaknesses.

Next is the *Logical-mathematical Intelligence* which is the intelligence that deals with logics and mathematics. It is the highly coveted intelligence that most people likes to obtain. The ability to solve math problems and to think logically.

The seventh type of intelligence is the *Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence*, people who are bodily-kinesthetic intelligent are sports people. They have proficiency in body control. They are great with hands and eyes coordination.

And lastly, the most recent addition on the Gardner’s Theory of intelligence, the *Naturalistic Intelligence* is the intelligence which is all about being able to connect with the environment and everything in it. These are the people that loves to be with nature and have deep appreciation of life.
Gardner is considered a trail-blazer back when he first came up with this theory. Many disputes his ideas, but today, his theory has been the basis of many teaching strategies. It gave clarity as to why every person can be entirely different from one another even though they are both considered as intelligent. Some even have the same I.Q. score yet shows difference with regards skills set and perception of things.

Gardner not only opened up this whole topic of Multiple Intelligence he also gave way to the shattering of stereotypes and generalization of what being smart is all about. He proved that intelligence is too complex to be defined by numbers and test scores.

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