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Multiple intelligences in making individual prospective vocation

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Abstract

Among the models of intelligence one of the most attentive is Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences where he proposes its eight distinct forms *viz.* Linguistic, Logical-Mathematical, Spatial, Musical, Naturalistic, Bodily-Kinesthetic, Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Intelligence. By leaving the exceptional cases it can be said that each individual has these forms of intelligences altogether that constitute his/her total cognition. In diverse set up of the problems these forms emerge (sometimes alone or sometimes in a mixed form) as an individual's ability to find solutions for the same. According to this theory an individual may own a profile of intelligences and he may be high in one while moderate or low in another. These intelligences influence one's learning and approach to do any other task assigned to him. There is a need too peep into an individual being to know what kind of intelligence dominates there in. This paper would attempt to focus on such relatively high range of intelligences that may influence not only one's learning within the classroom but also to his/her prospective vocation.

Keywords: Multiple intelligences, attributes, prospective vocation

Introduction

Intelligence has always been a topic of great importance and discussion among the researchers belonging to the field of psychology and education as well. It has been defined by several psychologists, researchers and educationists in their own ways. According to Gardner, intelligence is "biopsychological potential to process information that can be activated in a cultural setting to solve problems or create products that are of value in a culture". His theory of intelligence deals with human cognitive competence in terms of a set of skills, or capabilities by challenging the single general ability that we use to call intelligence. According to this theory the concept of intelligence comes as broader than that of the commonly measurable concept of intelligence through the standardised tools or pen-paper tests. There were initially seven identified intelligences that Gardner presented in his book 'Frames of Mind' (1983) [7]. In mid 1990's he added the eighth one in the set of intelligences i.e. naturalistic intelligence (Gardner, 1999) [10]. Gardner succeeded to establish this theory after doing many empirical studies for the years (Khan, M.B & Vanaja, M; 2019) [14]. All these identified intelligences are based on empirical findings because the whole MI Theory is grounded in empirical studies (Gardner & Moran, 2006). The set of multiple intelligences is composed of the intelligences *viz.* linguistic intelligence, logical-mathematical intelligence, spatial intelligences, musical intelligence, bodily-kinesthetic intelligence, naturalistic intelligence, interpersonal intelligence, and intrapersonal intelligence. Leaving the exceptional cases almost each individual possesses these all forms of intelligences altogether. Though, an individual may own a profile of intelligences that may be high in one while moderate or low in another. Several psychologists have so far been seen proposing also a range of new intelligences like moral, social, humour or such other intelligences. By going through the views and criticism over this theory, Gardner himself put his views that the only clearly identified eight intelligences meet the criteria of this theory. Though he also hypothesized about the existential intelligence as the possible ninth one (1999 b). But it also could not take place in the set of his intelligences.

Gardner's set of intelligences and Prospective vocation: The eight distinct intelligences that Gardner has identified make the set of his MI Theory.

This set of intelligences opens the way to do excel in both the life and learning of different people with different minds. An appraisal of intelligences with its respective major attributes including the prospective vocation related to each of the intelligence is discussed below.

Linguistic Intelligence: Those who own relatively high linguistic-verbal intelligence, usually do effective oral and written communication. These people usually are pertinent in using language and its syntax. The individual who are gifted with this intelligence usually be capable of using words efficiently during written and as well in oral communication.

Attributes

Take a keen interest in reading, writing and debates
Use words efficiently both in oral and written communication
Memorise the bit of information either written or spoken in an easier way
Be capable in describing things well and organized
Make stories interesting while narrating or telling to someone

Prospective vocation

People with high linguistic intelligence may opt their career as Poet, novelist, journalist, editor, dialogue writer, broadcaster, teacher, lawyer and politician.

Logical-Mathematical Intelligence: Those who possess a good level of logical-mathematical intelligence often have a tendency to imagine about the patterns and relationships. These people are capable of thinking something logically and usually seen solving problems scientifically.

Attributes

Discern pattern and relationship excellently
Be swift in doing complex calculations and computations
Are exceptionally skilled in problem-solving
Reach effortlessly to the central idea of abstract things
Enjoy doing scientific experiments

Prospective vocation

Individual with a high logical- mathematical intelligence may find a good career as astronomer, logician, mathematician, software programmer, engineer, statistician, economist, physicist, and scientist.

Musical Intelligence: Those who have high musical intelligence usually be sensitive towards sounds, rhythm and percussions. They better understand the grammar and essence of music and are capable of understanding and expressing the melodic tunes. Such people may easily quest a melody even in the chirping of birds.

Attributes

Better understand the melody of music and its composition
Have fascination towards playing different musical instruments
Take pleasure in listening and singing of poems/songs
Recognize the musical patterns, rhythms and percussions well
Learn the things fast that is written in the form of lyrics or poetry

Prospective vocation

One who is amazingly good at musical intelligence; may choose the field of music as their better career option. He may be a professional instrumentalist, composer, percussionist, singer, audiologist, record engineer, music therapist, music critic and music teacher.

Spatial Intelligence: People who possess relatively high spatial intelligence are capable of visualizing things well. They usually be proficient in identifying the fine-grained spatial images and excellent in reading charts, maps and directions as well.

Attributes

Recognize the fine-grained spatial images well
Solve riddles and efficiently put puzzles together
Read and comprehend graphs, charts and pictures efficiently
Be Sensitive towards colour and its combinations
Enjoy beautiful sketches and paintings

Prospective vocation

People who are gifted with this intelligence may prefer their career as a painter, chessman, designer, architect, pilot, driver, sailor, graphic and fashion designer, interior decorator and surveyor.

Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence: Those who are highly gifted with this intelligence are capable of doing each physical activity in a balanced way. These people are likely to have a brilliant hand-eye dexterity and a have good sense of timing during any kind of performance.

Attributes

Have an accuracy and precision during physical performance
Perform well in dancing, sports and other physical activities
Prefer creating things themselves own
Have an exceptional balance in bodily activities
Prefer doing acts to learn and memorise something

Prospective vocation

People having this intelligence high can make their defining career as Athlete, sculptor, dancer, actor, builder, gym instructor, physical trainer, yoga teacher, craftsman, fire-fighter, mechanic and surgeon.

Interpersonal Intelligence: People having this intelligence remarkable are warm and welcoming. They are often extrovert and frank with others. These people cooperate with others and enjoy the team-work.

Attributes

Enjoy talking to others and have good communication skills
Influence people by their novel ideas
Understand the emotions and temperaments of others
Enjoy working in groups with a team spirit
Resolve issues and conflicts that arises among the people

Prospective vocation

People who have this intelligence at high range can make their career as motivational speaker, diplomat, counsellor, social worker, politician, market executive, receptionist, and teacher.

Intrapersonal Intelligence: Individuals who have relatively high intrapersonal intelligence they usually are self-aware and confined towards their goal. They better understand their inner self and do what they chose and decide.

Attribute

Be acquainted with their own strengths and weaknesses
 Are familiar with his own mood and temperaments
 Can live satisfactorily even in solitude
 Identify their goal properly
 Be confident and aware of their inner self

Prospective vocation

One who finds himself excellent in this intelligence; can be a philosopher, psychologist, writer, theologian, criminologist and therapist.

Naturalistic Intelligence: People who are relatively high in naturalistic intelligence are more in tune with nature. They often take interest in nurturing the natural things and tend to explore the environment for learning the classes of plants, animals and their species. They find beauty in natural world.

Attributes

Enjoy reading books and magazines that dealt with nature
 Take interest to read the subjects like environment and biology
 Prefer to go for a walk to woods and other natural places
 Like to listen the things that connect to nature
 Enjoys hiking, gardening, farming and such other things

Prospective vocation

These people can make their career as Environmentalist, Biologist, agricultural scientist, forest ranger, nature photographer, zoo keeper, animal trainer, meteorologist, farmer and gardener.

Approach to identify one's own potentials: In present time education is not seen largely as a moral activity but an economic activity (Clarcken, 2010) ^[5]. One can easily observe that how the game of race and chase is happening in the present day society. In today's time we may even observe a uniformity that still lies among the students at certain level of education in various societies. Usually the student who scores high in matriculation, the large number of parents blindly pushes their wards to opt science at intermediate level without knowing their true potentials. Further, those who chose to study bio are often compelled to do bachelor in medicine and those who study maths are compelled to do engineering as well. If other good scoring students who choose commerce at intermediate level they also pushed to do nothing but charter accountancy or something else like that. Most of the students and even parents could be seen today as following the crowd or indirectly it can be said that this crowd is the consequence of the move of these people. The reason behind this, is nothing but the mindset by virtue of which the intelligence has been equated with one's test scores/or grades by most of the students, parents and even teachers. Howard Gardner tries to change this mindset and conventional way of thinking that learners usually have with them. His approach is to quest the various potentials that students carry with them. The theory on multiple intelligences boost the learners

by making them feel intelligent in different ways. Its understanding, makes students aware of their potential and even make confident of doing good in some another task or subject. Further it also makes students aware of their weakness in few particular areas which should also be treated as their strength. Test-score or grade of particular subject cannot be the parameter of being intelligent or dull as a whole. The way to opt any particular subject by following the tradition cannot be seen as one's wisdom. You may take instance of theatre artist like Shiram Lagoo and Mohan Aghase on Indian silver-screen who graduated in medicine but in later years they focussed to do more theatre and acting than medical practise. If Don Bradman would have studied science to become a doctor possibly he might have been succeed in that but it could not be guaranteed that he would be as great in medical profession as he could be in cricket. So, first everyone should identify their true potentials and it's better for them to choose something by choice rather doing something by default. Many psychologists and educationists place their opinion that conventional system of education must be transformed according to the need of students and present day society. The diverse needs and strengths of students are not being addressed properly in conventional system (Quigley, 1994). The MI theory has put an effort to transform the way educators consider the existing system of education.

Conclusion

In recent days many of the psychologists and educational practitioners is being seen as advocating the MI theory in classroom set-ups because it somewhat shortens the burden of teachers and the students as well. By knowing the concept of multiple intelligences it becomes clear that each person has his distinct learning style for different learning materials and also uses intelligences accordingly in different ways in daily lives. Few people learn something well by reading and writing while few prefer learning by doing. From the above discussion it is clear that most of the people tend to do the things accordingly to the kind of intelligence where they find themselves relatively rich. The profile of each individual is dominated to the intelligences that they usually carry at high range. So there is need to understand the student's MI profile to counsel and teach better for getting them real success. Both the classroom and home environment are important to provoke individual doing excel in their life and career. Armstrong, T in 'chapter 4' of his book 'Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom' suggests how to teach MI theory by using simplified terms of intelligences like 'self smart' for intrapersonal intelligence while intelligences of famous people by exemplifying Mahatma Gandhi as a personality of high interpersonal intelligence so that students could understand the concept of multiple intelligences in an easier way (Jacobs, 1997) ^[12]. How can a teacher create a good lesson plan is also an important aspect because it may paves the way to make pupil use their genuine potentials. Armstrong, T has also put the ideas over creating plans of lesson that incorporates several intelligence in same book within its chapter 5 (Jacobs, 1997) ^[12]. Thus the teachers and parents could play a pivotal role through teaching, guiding and counselling the concerned individuals to do according to their true potentials which will benefit them not only in their learning within the classroom but in their prospective vocation too.

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