

Learning Theories

Lesson 4

Multiple Intelligences



Overview

- Dr. Howard Gardner developed the theory of Multiple Intelligences in 1983.
- The theory suggests that the traditional concept of individuals having just one intelligence, the level of which has to be gauged through measurable tests, is very limited.
- Gardner (2004), states that there are at least eight different human intelligences.



The 8 Intelligences

- The 8 intelligences posited by Gardner 2004 include the 2 traditionally recognised intelligences of
 - **Language and Logical intelligence**
- Gardner also includes the following intelligences:
 - Musical
 - Spatial
 - Bodily/kinaesthetic
 - Interpersonal
 - Intrapersonal
 - Naturalist

Language

- **Language:**
 - involves sensitivity to spoken and written language
 - the ability to learn languages, and the capacity to use language to accomplish certain goals.
 - the ability to effectively use language to express oneself rhetorically or poetically; and use language as a means to remember information.
 - Gardner would regard writers, poets, lawyers and speakers are among those having high linguistic intelligence.



Logical-mathematical & Musical

- **Logical - Mathematical**
 - Consists of the capacity to analyze problems logically, carry out mathematical operations, and investigate issues scientifically.
 - In Howard Gardner's words, it entails the ability to detect patterns, reason deductively and think logically. This intelligence is most often associated with scientific and mathematical thinking.
- **Musical**
 - Involves skill in the performance, composition, and appreciation of musical patterns.
 - It encompasses the capacity to recognize and compose musical pitches, tones, and rhythms.



Spatial & Bodily Kinaesthetic

- **Spatial:**
 - involves the potential to recognize and use the patterns of wide space and more confined areas.
 - A person with good spatial intelligence learns well from flow charts, diagrams, maps etc.
- **Bodily-kinaesthetic:**
 - Entails the potential of using one's whole body or parts of the body to solve problems.
 - It is the ability to use mental abilities to coordinate bodily movements. Howard Gardner sees mental and physical activity as related.



Interpersonal & Intrapersonal

- **Interpersonal intelligence:**
 - Is concerned with the capacity to understand the intentions, motivations and desires of other people.
 - It allows people to work effectively with others.
 - Educators, salespeople, religious and political leaders and counsellors all need a well-developed interpersonal intelligence.
- **Intrapersonal intelligence**
 - Entails the capacity to understand oneself, to appreciate one's feelings, fears and motivations.
 - In Howard Gardner's view it involves having an effective working model of ourselves, and to be able to use such information to regulate our lives.



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Naturalist

- **Naturalist intelligence:**
 - Refers to the ability to recognize and classify plants, minerals, and animals, including rocks and grass and all variety of flora and fauna.
 - The ability to recognize cultural artifacts like cars or sneakers may also depend on the naturalist intelligence. ...some people from an early age are extremely good at recognizing and classifying artifacts.



Implications for Teaching/learning

- Gardner (2004), suggests that exposing the learner to a variety of approaches to teaching activates different intelligences.
- The implication for a class or group of learners is that they all learn differently and teachers need to provide several approaches

Implications for Teaching/learning

- Present topics using a variety of material including
 - a. Projector and screen
 - b. Diagrams as well as text
 - c. Video and audio
 - d. Handouts / crosswords / quizzes which include pictures and diagrams as well as text
- Use practical role plays and demonstrations

