

Session 9

Learning Theories: Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences

A. Introduction

How do we usually quantify a child to be intelligent? Is it by the grades he/she gets in school? Can we always say that the one who always gets



Image 1. Recognizing Multiple Intelligences:
An Interview with Dr. Howard Gardner .
(Source: Hunter, A. 2021: Online)

a perfect score in the tests is the intelligent person? How about those who failed in school but managed to achieve more in life later on of his life?

Intelligence is often construed as the ability of a person to retain and understand information and give an effective solution to a particular problem (Watts & Blessinger, 2017). Albert Einstein has become an image of high intelligence quotient (IQ). Some people perceive that individuals who work on enormous amount of researches, inventions, and getting several discoveries are the ones intelligent like Einstein. People who excel in

sciences, math, and other subjects requiring higher-order thinking (HOT) are often branded as intelligent. Can intelligence be measured on how a person gives a brilliant answer to a difficult question in class?

Some schools usually consider intelligent students as those who consistently get a grade of A or 100% as an equivalent. Success indicators in studies has always been associated with having a high grades and scholastic awards.

This lecture information mainly attempts to encourage students, prospective teachers and professional teachers as well, to see intelligence on a different perspective that not only those students with high IQ are the brilliant ones but also those with low academic scores and excel in other areas of human practice.

B. Session Objectives

- ✓ Discuss intelligence in various perspectives and its implications to facilitating learning;
- ✓ Develop personal thoughts and aspirations on evolving learning in multiple ways based on the different nature, potentials, capacities, talents, and interests of learners.
- ✓ Determine classroom scenarios, community issues and / or events that concerns multiple intelligences.
- ✓ Discuss the factors that may affect the learners' development through various situations encountered in each intelligence.

C. Session Content

1. Topic 1

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES and LEARNING

Basic Education Schools in the Philippines, as well as in few other countries have had classes with about 40 or more students per class. One teacher has to deal with these learners individually as much as possible to address their unique needs.



Teachers have been used to hearing and saying that "each child is unique". However, have you wondered whether schools have been maximizing the uniqueness of every learner? Do teachers really know how to gauge the learner's differences in terms of physical characteristics, emotional intelligence and learning styles? These differences may influence the feelings or emotions of the learner and as well as his/her thoughts and behavior which probably may affect his/her learning proficiency. It is important for a teacher to understand the implication of these differences in the holistic development of the learners.

Even teachers differ in the way we teach, learners are also different with each other in terms of learning styles. To attain a productive teaching and learning process, teachers being the More Knowledgeable Others (MKO), the more equipped in knowledge and being the heart of the classroom should consider students' differences in planning and administering the lessons in the classroom or whenever it's needed even outside the teaching and learning environment.

It may be challenging on the part of the teacher to deal with these individual differences in all classroom scenarios but it is still best to think that even teachers are not perfect and we recognize our own limitations but we are very much able to look for a suitable option to deal with this imperfections perfectly.

2. Topic 2

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES and LEARNING

While individual differences exemplify different types of physical abilities and emotional capacity, personality, attitudes, behavior and level of intelligence, the Multiple Intelligences of Howard Garner emphasized that the intelligence of an individual does not only refer to the level of cognitive abilities of an individual. The following are the different intelligence given by Howard Gardner:

- ***Linguistic intelligence (word smart)***

People who are linguistically intelligent are good at using words in both verbal and in writing. They are typically good at reading, writing poems, storytelling activities, debate and memorizing lectures and information.

- ***Logical-mathematical intelligence (number/logic smart)***

Individuals who are good at reasoning and analyzing problems or issues are logically and mathematically intelligent. They are likewise good at quantifying, calculating and solving abstract ideas.

- ***Spatial intelligence (picture smart)***

People who are good on visualizing things and create picture out of imaginary ideas are picture smart people. They are good at using maps

and finds directions. They can easily grasp an idea or concepts through graphs, charts, pictures or movies. School children in most cases learn better with the use of visual aids in the class.

- ***Bodily-Kinesthetic intelligence (body smart)***

People who are good at performing body movements both simple and complex are bodily-kinesthetic intelligent. It is not hard for these people to manipulate their body faculties in performing actions like sports-related and dance-related movements. They are more on doing rather than hearing and seeing.

- ***Musical intelligence (music smart)***

People who are musically intelligent are good at following rhythmic and sound pattern. Learning styles of these individuals usually is in a relax environment.

- ***Interpersonal intelligence (people smart)***

People who are strong in interpersonal intelligence are good at communicating and connecting with people. They can easily blend with different personalities. They also have this strong sense of assessing individual in terms of emotions, intentions and attitude. They are likewise have an ability to see angles in different perspectives.

- ***Intrapersonal intelligence (self smart)***

Individuals who have this intrapersonal intelligence are good at handling themselves in different situations. They perform well better working alone because of they are aware of their own strengths and weaknesses.

- ***Naturalist intelligence (nature smart)***

People who are naturalistically intelligent love to explore their environment and easily immerse with it. Their interest are usually camping, trekking and environment related activities. They enjoy studying botany, zoology and as well as biology.

D. Conclusion

Multiple intelligences describe how learners gain knowledge in different types of modalities. This statement simply says that learning styles of the pupils

or students may be influenced by the multiple intelligences that they possess. With this, using differentiated or customized classroom instruction provides diverse learners an opportunity to grow in learning the concepts taught by the teacher.

How is it important for a teacher to use his/her knowledge about multiple intelligences in teaching? Many of us may find it difficult to apply different teaching styles to diverse students having different intelligences in a single class at the same time, but it's worth to consider discovering our students' and our own strengths and weaknesses to provide balance in the teaching and learning process.

It is in the hands of the teachers, how well these intelligences be acknowledged equally important in nurturing the learners holistically.

E. References

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