

HOWARD GARDNER'S CONCEPT OF MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE

by:
Jerico G. Cruz

Like many generations before us, we grew up believing that intelligence is quantifiable and can be measured. The concept of I.Q. or the Intelligence Quotient is very familiar in the education sector as one of the matrices in which the ability to comprehend and understand students are converted into numbers.

IQ is a form of a grading system that shows how mentally competent a person is in relation to his or her peer group. The American Psychologist Stern first used the term "IQ" in 1912 to refer to the German phrase "Intelligent quotient." At that time, IQ was expressed as a mental age to chronological age ratio multiplied by 100. An individual would have an IQ of 100 if they were 10 years old and had a mental age of 10. Their IQ would be 120 if their mental age was higher than their chronological age, for example, 12 instead of 10. Their IQ would also be lower than 100 if their mental age was younger than their actual age.

But in recent years, using IQ testing to recognize the intelligence of an individual was contested by a study conducted at Harvard University by Professor Howard Gardner, a developmental psychologist. Gardner proposed in his research that a person can be a collation of multiple categories of intelligence. His theory of eight main forms of intellect was presented in his 1983 book *Frames of Mind*. Gardner's thesis had a notable influence on the subject of education, as it encouraged educators to experiment with innovative methods of instruction that catered to these various bits of intelligence.

According to Gardner, there are eight types or categories of intelligence Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, Logical-Mathematical, Naturalist, Visual-Spatial, Bodily-Kinesthetic, Linguistic-Verbal, and Musical.

Interpersonal Intrapersonal Intelligence is present in people with high interpersonal awareness and who are adept at comprehending and relating to others. These people are proficient in determining the feelings, intentions, desires, and motives of those around them. Logical-Mathematical people, on the other hand, are those with high reasoning, pattern recognition, and logical problem-solving skills. These individuals usually take a methodological approach to data, correlations, and structures. A naturalist is the most recent addition to Gardner's theory, naturalistic has encountered more opposition than his original seven intelligences. High levels of this type of intelligence, according to Gardner, are associated with a closer connection to nature and a propensity to be curious about, care for and learn more about other species. These folks have a reputation for being intensely sensitive to even the smallest changes in their surroundings. Visual-Spatial people find their strength in visualizing things. It is a skill that comes naturally to those with high visual-spatial intelligence. These people are normally excellent at comprehensive and detailed and utilizing maps, charts, movies, and photos. Bodily-Kinesthetic deals with high levels of bodily-kinesthetic intelligence associated with proficiency in direct control, action, and body movement. The flexibility and kinesthetic awareness of strong individuals in this area are usually remarkable. Language-verbal intelligence is the ability to utilize words effectively in writing and speaking. They often show great writing, reading, and knowledge retention skills. Strong musical intelligence allows for a good pattern, rhythm, and sound thinking. They usually perform and compose music extraordinarily well, and they are genuinely enthusiastic about it.

The concept of multiple intelligence innovates how education is delivered. It opens the discussion that there is no cookie-cutter for learning. One method of teaching can be effective for a certain type of learner but can fail with others.

Although the theory of multiple intelligence by Howard Gardner was met with criticism in its initial release, it truly made a huge impact on how education and learning are perceived in the new age. Everyone is a genius, but if you measure a fish by how well it

can climb a tree, it will live its entire life believing that it is stupid, as one of the finest quotes ever said by Albert Einstein.

References:

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