

Learning Styles

Subject: Learning and Teaching

Class :B.Ed. I st Year

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What is learning style ?



Your learning style is your learning preference. How do you like to learn?



Knowing about your Learning Style helps you to :

- ✓ Be more productive
- ✓ Increase achievement
- ✓ Be more creative
- ✓ Improve problem solving
- ✓ Make better decisions
- ✓ Learn more effectively



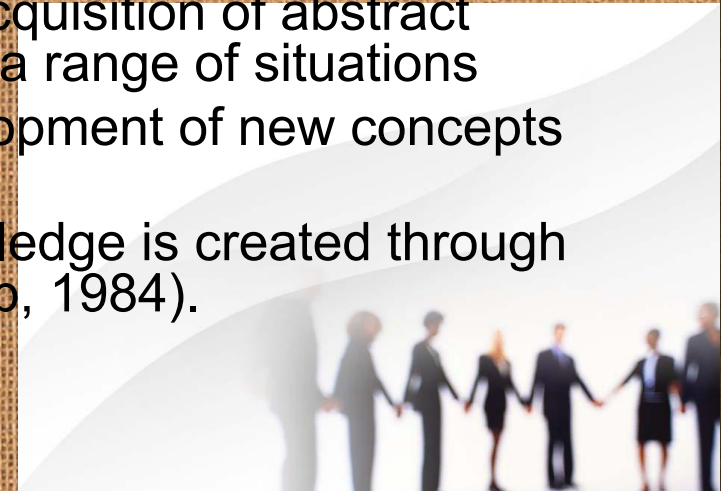
Meaning of Learning Style

- The variations in the styles- ways and means of learning certainly rest on the individual differences found in the learners.
- Thus the term learning style may be defined as the ways, means and methods adopted by an individual learner for allowing him to learn best in tune with his own nature, capability, motivation and inclinations in a particular teaching-learning situation.



MODELS OF LEARNING STYLES

- ❖ Kolb's Model of Learning Style:
 - David Kolb published his learning styles model in 1984 from which he developed his learning style inventory.
 - Kolb's experiential learning theory works on two levels:
 - A four stage cycle of learning and
 - Four separate learning styles
 - Much of Kolb's theory is concerned with the learners internal cognitive processes.
 - Kolb states that learning involves the acquisition of abstract concepts that can be applied flexibly in a range of situations
 - In Kolb's theory , the stimulus for development of new concepts is provided by new experiences.
 - "Learning is the process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experiences" (Kolb, 1984).



Concrete Experience

(doing / having an experience)



Active Experimentation

MODELS OF LEARNING STYLES

(planning / trying out what you have learned)

Reflective Observation

MODELS OF LEARNING STYLES

(reviewing / reflecting on the experience)



Abstract Conceptualisation

MODELS OF LEARNING STYLES

(concluding / learning from the experience)



- Kolb's learning theory (1974) sets four learning styles, which are based on four-stage learning cycle noted above.
- Kolb explains that different people naturally prefer a certain single different learning style.
- Various factors influence a person's preferred style.
- Example:
 - Social Environment
 - Educational experiences



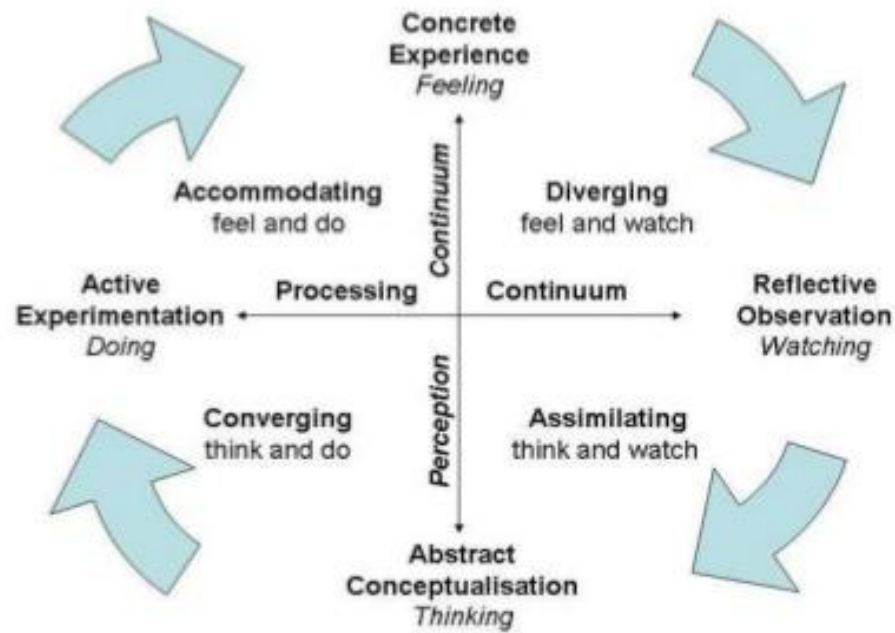
MODELS OF LEARNING STYLES

- Kolb believed that we cannot perform both variables (Eg. Think and feel) at the same time.
- Our learning style is a product of these two choice decision.
- Its often easier to see the construction of kolb's learning style in terms of a two- by- two matrix.
- Each learning style represents a combination of two preferred styles.
- The diagram also highlight s Kolb's terminology for the four learning styles:
 - Diverging, Assimilating, and
 - Converging, Accomodating:



Transforming Experience	Reflective Observation (Watching)	Active Experimentation(Doin g)
Concrete Experience (Feeling)	i) Diverging Style (Feeling and Watching) CE/RO	iii) Converging style (Thinking and Doing) CE/AE
Abstract Conceptualization (Thinking)	ii) Assimilating Style(Thinking and Watching) AC/RO	iv) Accommodating Style (Feeling and Doing) AC/AE





Learning Styles Descriptions

- Knowing a person's learning style enables learning to be oriented according to the preferred method.
- But everyone responds to and needs the stimulus of all types of learning styles to one extent or another-
- It's a matter of using emphasis that fits best with the given situation and a person's learning style preferences.



Brief Descriptions of the four KOLB Learning Styles

1. ***DIVERGING (Feeling and Watching – CE/RO):***

These people are able to look at things from different perspectives.

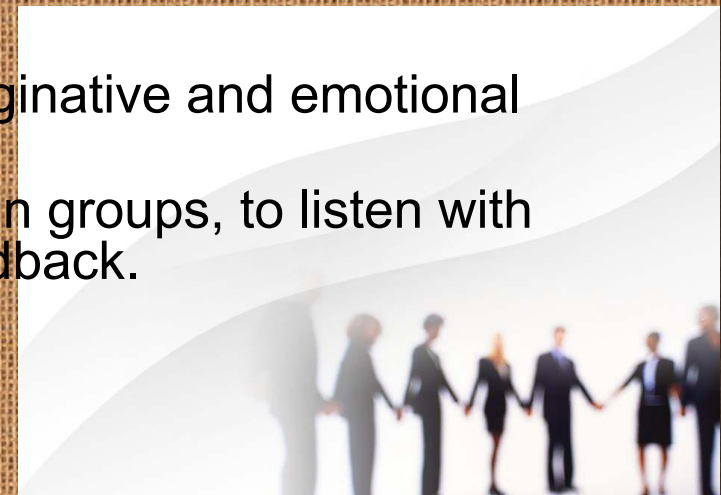
- They are sensitive.
- They prefer to watch rather than do, tending to gather information and uses imagination to solve problems.
- They are best at viewing concrete situations at several different view points.

Kolb called this style 'diverging' because these people perform better in situations that require ideas- generation, for example brainstorming.

People with a diverging learning style have broad cultural interest and like to gather information.

They are interested in people , tend to be imaginative and emotional and tend to be strong in the arts.

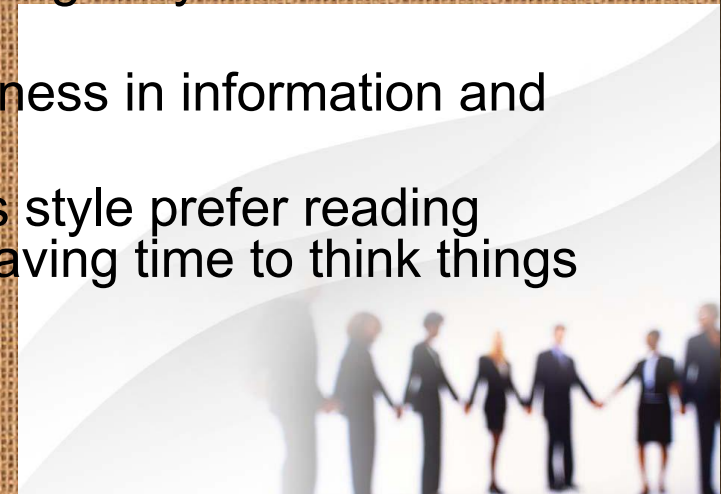
People with the diverging style prefer to work in groups, to listen with an open mind and to receive personal feedback.



Brief Descriptions of the four KOLB Learning Styles

II. **ASSIMILATING**(*Watching and Thinking- AC/RO*)

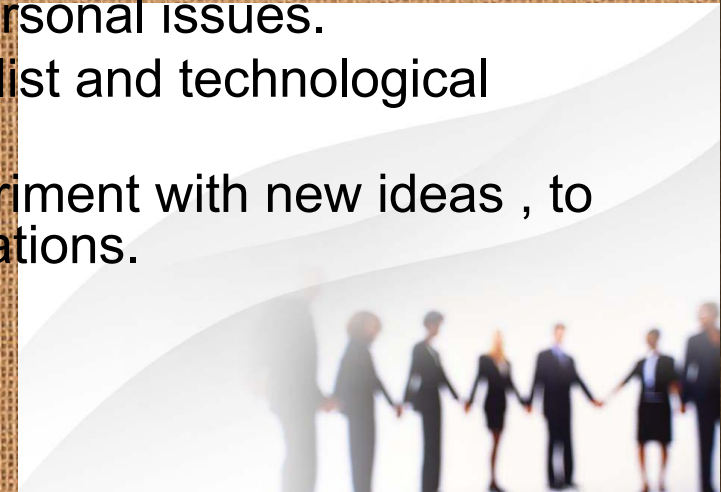
- Preference is for a concise, logical approach.
- ideas and concepts are more important than people.
- These people require good clear explanation rather than practical opportunity.
- They excel at understanding wide-ranging information and organizing it in a clear logical format.
- People with an assimilating learning style are less focused on people and more interested in ideas and abstract concepts.
- People with this style are more attracted to logically sound theories than approaches based on practical value.
- This learning style is important for effectiveness in information and science careers.
- In formal learning situation, people with this style prefer reading lectures, exploring analytical models and having time to think things through.



Brief Descriptions of the four KOLB Learning Styles

III. **CONVERGING** (*Doing and Thinking- AC/AE*)

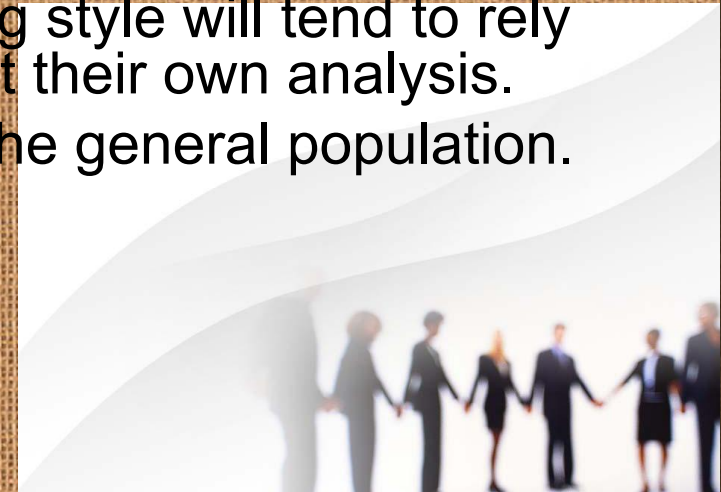
- People with converging learning style can solve problems and will use their learning to find solutions to practical issues.
- They prefer technical tasks, and are less concerned with people and interpersonal aspects.
- People with converging learning style are best at finding practical uses for ideas and theories.
- They can solve problems and make decisions by finding solutions to questions and problems.
- People with converging learning style are more attracted to technical tasks and problems than social and interpersonal issues.
- A converging learning style enables specialist and technological abilities.
- People with a converging style like to experiment with new ideas, to stimulate, and to work with practical applications.



Brief Descriptions of the four KOLB Learning Styles

IV. **ACCOMMODATING** (*Doing and Feeling- CE/AE*)

- The Accommodating learning style is 'hands-on', and relies on intuition rather than logic.
- These people use other peoples analysis, and prefer to take a practical, experiential approach.
- They are attracted to new challenges and experiences and to carrying out plans.
- They commonly act on 'gut' instinct rather than logical analysis.
- People with an accommodating learning style will tend to rely on others for information than carry out their own analysis.
- This learning style is prevalent within the general population.



EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- Kolb's (1984) learning stages and cycle could be used by teachers to critically evaluate the learning provision typically available to students, and to develop more appropriate learning opportunities.
- Educators should ensure that activities are designed and carried out in ways that offer each learner the chance to engage in the manner that suits them best.
- Also, individuals can be helped to learn more effectively by the identification of their lesser preferred learning styles and the strengthening of these through the application of the experiential learning cycle.
- Ideally, activities and material should be developed in ways that draw on abilities from each stage of the experiential learning cycle and take the students through the whole process in sequences.



- THANK YOU

