

**Department of Education, Patna University**

**Subject: Innovative Teaching - Learning**

**Semester: II**

**Course NO.: CC8**

**Unit IV – Enhancing Students' Learning and Motivation**

**Topic: Learning Styles and Preferences**

**E- Content by: Rani Kumari**

**Research Scholar**

**Department of Education, Patna University**

**E-mail: [rkumari930@gmail.com](mailto:rkumari930@gmail.com)**

**Contact No. - 7631717140**

### **Objectives**

The student will be able to:

1. Know the various styles and strategies of learning.
2. Understand the different types of learning Preferences.

# Learning Styles and Preferences

## Introduction

Most individuals have a preferred way of gathering, interpreting, organizing and thinking about information. Some learn best by active manipulation, others by reading, still others by talking about information. No single style of learning has been shown to be better than any other and no single style leads to better learning. Nonetheless, it is important to recognize that a variety of learning styles exist and they can explain the differences among students in classes and consequently the need to develop a range of teaching strategies.

Four categories of learning styles:-

1. **Personality Models** refer to basic personality characteristics, such as introvert versus extrovert.
2. **Information-processing Models** reflect how people take in and process information. For example, some seek a global understanding while others prefer a step-by-step approach.

3. **Social Interaction Models** focus on the ways students interact and behave in the classroom. Some students are learner oriented while others are grade oriented.
4. **Instructional Preference Models** focus on the medium in which learning occurs. This could be reading, listening, observing, engaging in direct experience.

Learning Style Helps to:

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

### **Learning Preferences**

- "Learning preferences" refer to a person's characteristic patterns of strengths, weaknesses and preferences in taking in, processing, and retrieving information.

- The Program helps students explore their learning preferences in order to better understand the strategies and approaches that might be most efficient for specific courses.

## **Type of Preferences**

- **Written**

Learners who prefer this learning style are most comfortable learning by reading. Often, they like to remember new information and must see it written down before they can transfer it to long term memory. They might also be most comfortable expressing the information they know through writing about it.

- **Auditory/Oral**

For these learners, information is most easily processed through hearing it. A strongly auditory learner might read aloud when they reach a particularly difficult part of a written text, and will usually enjoy studying with another person or in a group. Sometimes auditory learners are also most confident and capable when they express their thoughts orally, rather than in writing.

- **Visual/Graphic**

These learners learn best when using pictures, graphs, concept maps, grids, matrices and other visual representations of the information to be learned.

- **Kinesthetic**

Kinesthetic learners learn through their whole body: sight, smell, movement, touch, and color all help kinesthetic learners. They will learn best by 'doing', manipulation of material, hands-on training, application of information to real world situations, creating and manipulating models, color-coding, touching, doing.

- **Active/Reflective**

Active learners prefer to learn in the moment, processing information 'on the go'. They often benefit from discussion and studying with others.

Reflective learners prefer to process information internally. They generally take in information and spend time thinking it through before feeling comfortable joining a discussion or group. Reflective learners are often quiet in class discussions, and might benefit from learning ways to participate more actively in class.

## **Conclusion**

When students are studying with methods compatible with their preferred way of learning, they tend to be more satisfied and productive. Learners move from one style to another depending on the situation. Teachers should try to use a variety of activities when presenting material.

## **EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

1. What do you mean by learning styles and how it enhances the performance of learners?
2. Discuss the different types of learning Preferences with suitable examples.