

Abstract

This paper investigated, through a literature research, Learning Styles and Strategies and their applicability to Education with special reference to the Jamaica Educational System. The main areas investigated were the different approaches to the study of the Learning Process Theory; certain factors which affect the learning outcome; dimensions underlying study and learning strategies and an analysis of the applicability and implications of these Learning Styles and Strategies for the Jamaican Educational System.

Major Findings

The paper reveals:

1. that a number of learning styles and strategies are employed by individuals.
 - (a) the individuals' perception of the problem or task - the ability to break the problem or task into component parts and studying them step-by-step in isolation from each other and from their surroundings. The task may be viewed as a whole - integrating and relating the various parts, while seeing them in the context of their surroundings
 - (b) the ability of the individuals to integrate the new experience into their existing knowledge structure. A memorizing approach with poor ability to integrate or active integration which results in meaningful learning.

2. students of differing personality and motivational types in the particular environment tackle their academic work in different ways, with differing results.
3. there is a definite link between the level of processing adopted by the student and the level of understanding reached. The levels of understanding depend on the degree of activity, attention and involvement shown by the student, the perceived interest and relevance of the content, the degree of anxiety and the nature of the questions.
4. the study behaviour and habits of successful and unsuccessful students differ in various respects : organization for studying, motivation for studying and techniques for studying.
5. there is need for students to be trained in effective study habits techniques as good study habits are associated with essay writing, examination.
6. Students utilize different learning styles and strategies; different factors - motivational, personality and environmental impact on learning; there are different conditions for learning; the learning process involves a complexity of tactics, strategies and approaches, hence the need for:
 - (a) teachers to adopt their teaching styles to accommodate individual learning strategy.
 - (b) educational planners and decision makers to develop and maintain more effective and systematic programmes at all levels to facilitate learning.