

## The Importance of Student Learning Styles in Determining Learning Strategies

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### ABSTRAK

The purpose of this research is to describe the importance of recognizing student learning styles for teachers in carrying out learning activities. The method used in data collection is literature study. The library sources used are journals, articles and books. Student learning style is an important thing for students to receive information. Recognizing students' learning styles can make it easier for teachers to determine what learning strategies and methods to use when teaching. Matching students' learning styles with the teacher's way of teaching can make the learning process more effective. Learning styles consist of three types, namely auditory learning style, visual learning style and kinesthetic learning style. The auditory learning style understands learning by hearing. The visual learning style learns through what is seen. The kinesthetic learning style learns by using a lot of movement.

**Keywords:** *Learning style, learning, visual, auditory, kinesthetic.*

### INTRODUCTION

Quality learning is learning where the teacher and students interact well and exchange information in order to gain knowledge and form attitudes and beliefs between teachers and students. A teacher must be aware that the main goal of learning is to make students understand knowledge and that knowledge will be used by all students in the future. It is important to know that to improve the quality of learning, it is necessary to know, among other things, students' learning styles. There are many problems in the world of education in Indonesia, one of which is the inability of students to understand the material provided by the teacher, which has a negative impact on the slow intellectual progress of students. One of the causes of this is that teachers do not understand their students' learning styles so they use the wrong learning methods when teaching.

Learning style is an important thing that every student has to be able to receive, digest and process the information received. This was also explained by Nasution (2003:39) who explained that learning style is a consistent way used by a student in capturing stimulus or information, how to remember or think and solve problems. It is very important for a teacher to understand the learning styles used by students. The learning style used by each student varies according to their abilities. Therefore, as a teacher you must be able to determine a learning style that suits your students so that teaching and learning activities can run well. Apart from that, knowing students' learning styles can also make it easier for teachers to determine what learning strategies are suitable for use in class. Learning strategies that are suitable for students can make the teaching and learning process easier and suit the characteristics of each student.

Learning strategies are ways or methods applied by a teacher to students to produce lasting changes in cognitive, emotional and motoric aspects. This is in line with the opinion of Dick and Carey

(1990) in (Bambang Warsita, 2009) which states that this learning strategy includes all components of learning material and procedures or stages of learning activities used by teachers in order to help students achieve certain learning goals.

The learning strategies used by teachers to improve the quality of learning really determine the student's learning process, namely an enjoyable learning process so that student learning outcomes increase and optimal learning outcomes are created for students. It is very important for teachers to have superior qualities in order to create interesting, enjoyable, challenging and meaningful learning experiences in the context of forming educational professionalism. Therefore, to improve the quality of learning, qualified teachers are needed so that learning objectives can be achieved in accordance with the planned learning objectives.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the formulation of the problem in this research is whether it is important to recognize student learning styles, how to recognize each student's learning style, and how to determine learning strategies that suit student learning styles. In connection with the issue of student learning styles, the author chose the title "The Importance of Student Learning Styles in Determining Learning Strategies".

There is previous research that was used as an illustration for the author to create this research. Research conducted by Tety Nur Cholifah (2018) stated that learning styles generally have an influence on the learning process but there are also those that do not have a positive effect on student learning outcomes or student achievement. However, this learning style is very useful for teachers to know the character of students' learning styles and can be used as a choice of appropriate learning media for students. Then Ika Suci Cahyani in her research stated that learning style is very important in the learning process. Learning that suits students' learning styles can increase students' understanding of the material or information provided, besides this, it can create conducive and enjoyable learning for teachers and students.

## RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in writing this journal is literature study (library). Literature study is a writing method whose research object focuses on literature. The literature in question can be in the form of valid online media, relating to written research and relevant studies that support explanation or analysis of the discussion. The data sources used in this journal research are articles and journals related to discussing issues. The data collection technique used in this writing is by collecting library data, reading and reviewing journals or articles that have been found.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Result

In general, student learning styles are divided into three types, namely auditory learning style, visual learning style and kinesthetic learning style.

#### a. Auditory Learning Style

The auditory learning style is a learning style that absorbs information most effectively through the sense of hearing (speech). Students who have this learning style are characterized by a clear voice, prefer to listen to other people talk, often monologue or mumble, don't like reading, enjoy listening to music and enjoy discussing with friends in groups. Another characteristic of children who have an auditory learning style is that when students read a book, their lips move along with pronouncing the words from the book, they speak in a structured and fluent rhythm, they have a little difficulty when they get assignments that involve visualization and students learn by listening and remembering. what is being said, not by what is seen.

Some teaching methods that are suitable for this auditory learning style are:

- Carry out learning activities using songs so that students are interested in learning,
- Invite students to read books regularly so that students get used to reading books,
- Teachers must be able to encourage students to participate in discussion groups,
- Get students used to having the courage to speak in front of their friends, for example discussing material that has been previously explained by the teacher.

### **b. Visual Learning Style**

Visual learning style is a learning style that relies on sight to receive information and knowledge during the learning process. Students who have this learning style prefer to see how to do something with certain signs, symbols or codes rather than having discussions with the group. Students with this learning style are characterized by having a high voice, speaking too fast and not wanting to listen to other people, having a neat appearance, often forgetting things and tending to be quiet when they are angry.

Teaching strategies that are suitable for students who have a visual learning style are:

- Create learning materials using pictures, diagrams or other forms of symbols so that students are interested when the teacher explains,
- Invite students to express their ideas in the form of pictures or writing,
- Give an overview of the material that students want to know. Invite students to imagine what is happening, not just remember the text,
- Give students study books that contain lots of illustrations and colorful pictures.

### **c. Kinesthetic Learning Style**

Kinesthetic learning style is a learning style that uses learning methods with lots of movement. Students with a kinesthetic learning style prefer to learn by interacting with friends or doing things around them. It is easier for them to digest something by participating directly compared to lectures or reading books. Characteristics of students with a kinesthetic learning style include having a deeper voice, using more movement, speaking more slowly, not liking to sit still for long periods of time, preferring to play games, sports and other physical activities.

Strategies or teaching methods that are suitable for students who have a kinesthetic learning style are:

- Increase practical activities in the field,
- Allow students to move around when the learning process is free, but must still be supervised by the teacher,
- Occasionally invite students to study outside the classroom so they don't get bored,
- Carry out ice breaking activities if the students' condition while studying looks bored, because the material explained by the teacher will be difficult for students to accept if they are not enthusiastic about learning.

When carrying out learning activities, it is very important to include students' learning styles in designing the learning process. After the teacher knows the students' learning styles and has had discussions with other teachers, it is hoped that the teacher can provide teaching methods that suit the students' skills and knowledge so that the material presented can be well received by the students.

By carrying out an appropriate teaching and learning process between students and educators, a quality learning process will be achieved. But we must continue to improve the quality of learning so that the quality of learning is maintained, both human resources, material resources, quality of learning and quality of graduates. Even though there are different definitions, what is meant by quality of learning is the ability of an educational institution to carry out learning optimally.

From the teacher's perspective, quality is perceived by how optimally a teacher can facilitate the student learning process. Each teacher is responsible for the level of student success in learning and the teacher's level of success in teaching. The process that teachers go through is not easy, but in order for it to run well, teachers must be able to instill a positive attitude towards learning because learning is an important part of the learning process.

## Discussion

Student learning style is the method used by students to receive, digest and process information provided by the teacher. Each student definitely has a different level of ability in understanding and absorbing information in learning. There are students who understand quickly and there are also those who are a little slower. Apart from speed in understanding lessons, each student also has a different way of processing information. Therefore, each student has a different learning style because each student has a diverse character. De Porter and Hernacki (2013) state that learning style is a combination of how one absorbs, then organizes and processes information. If teachers are aware of students' learning styles, teachers can choose better learning methods and optimize students' learning processes. However, it must be known that the concept of learning styles is not always taken for granted, teachers in schools must discuss how much learning styles can influence the effectiveness of learning before determining learning strategies that suit the needs of all students.

Basically, learning style is how students find learning methods that suit themselves so that learning activities become easier and more enjoyable. Once teachers know their students' learning styles, they can easily manage classroom learning using certain methods. All students must know which learning style is best for them, because perhaps they do not yet know what type of learning style is suitable to use in their learning. Student learning styles result from innate factors from birth and environmental factors.

Most teachers still use the lecture method in their learning activities. Therefore, if the teacher is explaining the material, some students focus on listening, some do not listen and others are busy wandering around and do not respond to the teacher's explanation of the material. This can be caused by different student learning styles and teacher teaching styles.

## CONCLUSIONS

Learning style is each student's unique way of digesting and processing information, which is generally divided into visual, auditory and kinesthetic. By understanding and implementing learning strategies that suit this learning style, teachers can improve student achievement and learning outcomes, making learning more quality and meaningful. Therefore, it is important for teachers to recognize students' learning styles in order to design effective and interesting learning methods, thereby creating a learning environment that is adaptive and responsive to students' individual needs.

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