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The Urgency of Understanding Learning Styles to Optimize Student Potential

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Abstrak

Sebagai seorang pendidik memahami karakteristik dan gaya belajar peserta didik adalah suatu keniscayaan sebelum proses pembelajaran di mulai baik dari perencanaan, pelaksanaan dan evaluasi. Pendidik perlu melakukan assesmen diagnostik untuk mengetahui data awal dari profil belajar peserta didik untuk membantu untuk mencapai tujuan pembelajaran. Gaya belajar adalah cara peserta didik untuk belajar sesuai dengan bakat, minat dan apa yang mendorong untuk lebih cepat memahami materi pelajaran. Gaya belajar peserta didik mempunyai cara dan metode masing-masing sehingga pendidik harus memahami untuk menentukan strategi, metode dan media ajar untuk mengoptimalkan potensi peserta didik. Secara umum ada tiga dengan gaya belajar peserta didik yaitu, auditorial atau proses belajar dengan mendengar sesuatu lebih dominan, visual peserta didik belajar dengan memanfaatkan penglihatan sehingga informasi kan lebih cepat di pahami, kinestetik belajar dengan tindakan, simulasi dan aktifitas fisik. Seorang pendidik harus memepertimbangkan metode pembelajaran yang terbaik dengan melihat karakteristik setiap individu dengan tujuan pembelajaran dan berkembangnya potensi peserta didik.

Kata Kunci: *Gaya Belajar, Potensi Peserta Didik, Karakteristik*

Abstract

As an educator, understanding the characteristics and learning styles of students is a necessity before the learning process starts from planning, implementation and evaluation. Educators need to conduct diagnostic assessments to find out the initial data from the learning profile of students to help to achieve learning objectives. Learning style is a way for learners to learn according to their talents, interests, and what drives them to understand the subject matter more quickly. The learning style of students has its ways and methods so educators must understand to determine strategies, techniques and teaching media to optimize the potential of students. In general, there are three learning styles of students, namely, auditorium or the process of learning by hearing something is more dominant. Visual students learn by utilizing vision so that information is faster to understand—kinesthetic learning with actions, simulations and physical activity. An educator must consider the best learning method by looking at the characteristics of each individual with learning objectives and the development of student potential.

Keywords: Learning Style, Potential of Learners, Characteristics

INTRODUCTION

Learning style is an essential aspect for learners (Alfiyanto et al., 2022; Alfiyanto & Hidayati, 2022; Maryance et al., 2022). Learning style is the way an individual perceives, absorbs, processes and organizes the information received. A person's success is greatly influenced by learning style. Then, in teaching and learning activities, students are guided to understand and recognize learning styles that suit student needs so that the planned learning process is adequately achieved (Mufidah, 2017).

The learning style that is most often not noticed in almost all educational unit systems is kinesthetic or using movement. Every thing that is experienced in good learning is to use verbal, musical, and visual stimulants, but brilliant educators use a lot of stimulation with activities, movements, and participation. Although students have a visual learning style, one can understand information by doing practical things (Mustafida, 2016). Learning style is vital in improving learning achievement and the quality of education. Teachers need to know the learning styles of students in order to determine how to educate according to student learning styles and according to their needs (Widayanti, 2013).

The degree to which a person absorbs and processes information is different from one another. Some are very fast, some are moderate and do not rule out the possibility of slow understanding (Mambela, 2018). Therefore, one must learn in order to understand information. Most students tend to prefer it if a teacher writes everything down on the board. In this way, students are easier to read and understand directly. There are some

students more likely to be happy if the teacher explains using the lecture method and narrates verbally, it is easier for students to understand.

It is appropriate as a teacher to know the needs of students by understanding the learning styles of students so that the material taught can be conveyed properly and correctly. In realizing effective and happy learning, a teacher must discuss the learning needs of students by learning the learning typology of students. This is important because it will determine the methods, strategies, media that will be used in learning to produce quality students. Understanding the learning style of students is a necessity, optimizing the potential of students must begin with understanding the learning styles of students. The learning styles of learners, namely audiotorial, visual and kinesthetic. This study, in general, will explain the learning style to explore the potential of students in order to achieve learning objectives.

RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this study is library research. Data sources used in this journal research are books, journals, and articles related to the discussion of problems.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Learning Styles

Many experts define learning styles. In general, learning style is the way a person understands and absorbs the information presented and the learning taught. Differences in student learning styles are a necessity. Therefore, education units must know their characteristics and learning styles before starting learning. This is the best way for a teacher to map the needs of students in achieving their learning goals in the education unit. Students quickly achieve goals if they develop learning styles and learn disadvantages and advantages so that they can apply disproportionate learning to students.

Understanding learning styles in the world of education is more indicative of hearing, vision, and kinesthetics or movement. For visual learning styles, of course, it is directly related to mental shadows. The auditory learning style refers to the narrative of lectures and hearing. While the kinesthetic learning style or disruptive movements in large and small movements (Emrina, 2009). According to Rita Dunn, Learning style is a way in which teaching and learning begin to focus, process, and store complex and new information materials (Esti Ismawati And Faraz Umayya, 2019). The researchers at least found variations in learning styles in students that can be categorized into three conclusions:

1. Each learner learns in their way, known as a learning style
2. To find out the learning style of students can use sharing tools.
3. The fusion of learning styles with teaching will encourage the smoothness of learning.
(Andriansyah, 2010)

As an educator, you must know the learning styles of students in order to meet the learning needs of students, of course, with the implementation of effective learning styles. If an educator teaches individually, then the learning style becomes a must that educators must own. An educator must know the learning styles of students to strengthen then their ability in a variety of teaching style competencies so that they can perform their duties. An educator must be an expert in processing teaching materials, structured references, and carrying out assessments well. Educators must be able to choose ways of learning that are in accordance with the abilities and needs of students.

Then each student must pay attention to their learning style, but with focus and accuracy on the learning style presented by the teacher will be effective and efficient. Current conditions require teachers to understand the learning styles and learning profiles of students so that the learning process becomes relevant.

A Wide Variety of Learning Styles

According to Hamzah B. Uno divides learning types into several categories, namely:

1. Learning uses words, where in the learning process, students invite their friends to tell stories, write and read.
2. They are learning using images, which is where the process of learning is provided by teachers using photos, videos, slides or films.
3. Learning with questions and feedback, namely in this condition students are more likely to like to ask questions to the teacher so as to give birth to answers to become a conclusion.
4. They are learning using music, which is the learning process of listening to music so that students get information and knowledge to be concluded.
5. There are some students learn by socializing, moving and being alone (Uno, 2008)

From the explanation above, it can be concluded broadly that the learning style of students is divided into three types, namely, auditorial type, visual type and kinesthetic type. The division into these three types does not mean that students only have one kind of learning style so as to eliminate the characteristics of other learning styles. Grouping into this type aims to see the learning style of more dominant students, making it easier for students to receive lessons. The three learning styles will be explained as follows:

Types with Visual Learning Styles

According to Bobbi dePorter and Mike Hernacki, students who have visual learning style skills will prefer to learn by using vision, paying attention to illustrations, following or reading instructions and remembering information with vision associations (DePorter & Hernacki, 2005). The learning style of learners with visuals relies more on visual ability. Where there is clear evidence to show to learners. Then, students who have a visual learning style prefer to use the ability to see to absorb information before it is taken to be understood.

Here are some characteristics of students who are included in the type of visual learning style, namely:

1. Students prefer a rapid and regular appearance.
2. At the time of speaking rather quickly.
3. Meticulous and cramped.
4. Appearance is important when dressing or going to perform.
5. Students with visual learning styles are easier to remember by seeing than by hearing.
6. Reading is more than being read by others.
7. Art is the main thing compared to music.
8. Pictures are the best tool for memory. (Bobbi DePorter & Mike Hernacki, 2005)

In the explanation above, it can be understood that vision is essential with students, especially by using visual learning styles. As an educator, of course, you must understand the needs of students in learning, especially in choosing teaching methods. The use of teaching aids and media must be tangible by being able to be seen directly by students both by describing it and showing it now. Expressions and body language are the mainstay for educators in explaining learning so that students quickly understand the learning material. To see clearly, students tend to sit in the front row with the aim of being able to see directly and write in detail things that are considered essential. When educators explain teaching material, the brains of students with visual learning styles will work faster by being given examples in the form of visuals, for example, graphics, videos and illustrated books.

Types with Auditorium Learning Styles

The type with auditorial learning style is the type of learning by prioritizes hearing in order to remember and understand it (Susilo, 2006). Students with auditorial learning styles can understand information through hearing. As an educator, learning methods that are in accordance with these characteristics must look at the physical condition of students. If concluded from the explanation above, students who have an auditorium learning style are faster at knowing and understanding information using hearing or, in other words, when

other people give directions, learning by listening is like discussing what is seen directly and then narrating something in detail. So, the main characteristic of auditorial learning styles prioritizes hearing as an essential way to process information and knowledge. The point is that someone must listen first, then be able to understand and remember the knowledge and information possessed. The characteristics of learning with auditorium learning styles are:

1. Be active and participate in discussions.
2. I love to talk and make speeches.
3. He enjoys talking about ideas verbally.
4. Write down song lyrics and verses briefly to stimulate memory.
5. When reading a text, the voice tends to be loud (Ismawati & Umayya, 2019)

From the characteristics of this learning style, it can be concluded that students who use auditorial learning styles are faster to understand and learn everything through verbal discussion and explanation by educators. Learning in an auditorial style understands messages through sound both in high and low tones. The meaning and message written are complex for auditory learners to understand. Students with this characteristic can memorize faster. Then, students with auditory prefer to work in groups, meaning more than two friends. A large number of friends will encourage motivation, discussion, and feedback from peers which can cause more hearing processes and affect the speed and information absorbed by students.

Types with Kinesthetic Learning Styles

Kinesthetic learning style is learning activities by working, moving and touching. Teaching and learning activities with this style model have a uniqueness in learning to continue to do movements, sensory activities, and feelings. This learning activity is challenging not to move because of the powerful urge to do activities and exploration. According to Hamzah B. Uno, the kinesthetic learning style is the process of learning by touching everything that can show information so that someone can remember it (Uno, 2008).

Students who have a kinesthetic learning style are seen in learning if they are involved and learn actively. Moving will activate the brain to think and actualize by learning. Students with this style will be happier if the pattern is by doing than if they have to listen and pay attention. Here are some characteristics of students with kinesthetic learning styles. According to DePorter and Hernacki, the attributes of kinesthetic learning include:

1. The fingers of the hand are used as an indicator for reading

2. Be active in everything he wants to do
3. At the time of communication tends to stand closer to the interlocutor.
4. Hasil, from his poor writing
5. The word used has the meaning of action.
6. Practice is part of learning
7. How to memorize by paying attention and walking
8. To get people's attention, the action taken is to touch
9. Sitting and staying still for a long time is a weakness.
10. Communicate with the plans.
11. It is difficult to remember the location and area unless you have lived and resided.
12. Busy games prefer it (DePorter, B. & Hernacki, 2010).

The way learners learn kinesthetics is by involving the five senses such as motion, touch, sight, hearing, and taste. Learning using laboratory practice *field trips* is a joy to provide direct and accurate contributions for the implementation of new things. Students with a kinesthetic learning style are interested in photography, exhibitions and other action activities. These students are challenged to stay silent for a long time, so they encourage them to be active and exploratory.

Optimizing Student Potential by Understanding Learning Styles

Knowing the learning style of students is very important because every student has different learning tendencies. By knowing the learning style of students, teachers can adjust teaching methods that are more creative, active and efficient, thus increasing understanding and student skills when learning. Here are some reasons why it's essential to know a student's learning style:

1. Improve learning effectiveness: By understanding student learning styles, teachers can tailor learning methods that better suit student needs. This can increase the effectiveness of learning and help students to understand the material better.
2. Increase student motivation: Students will be more motivated to learn if the learning method used matches their learning style. For example, more visual students can be more motivated to learn through pictures and diagrams, whereas more auditory students can be more motivated to learn through talks and discussions.
3. Improve students' skills: By getting to know students' learning styles, teachers can help students develop better and more effective study skills. For example, more kinesthetic students may be taught learning skills through physical movement, whereas more visual students may be taught learning skills through visualization and drawing.

4. Improve teacher-student interaction: By understanding student learning styles, teachers can foster better interaction with students. Teachers can more easily communicate with students and provide more effective support in the learning process.

In order to improve learning effectiveness, teachers need to understand the learning styles of students. Thus, teachers can adapt teaching methods more effectively and help students reach their best learning potential.

CONCLUSION

In education, an educator must understand the learning styles of students. The learning style possessed by each individual is different from others, educators should understand it in order to determine strategies, methods and learning media to achieve effective learning. Learning styles are closely related to how students learn and what is the interest of students. So, students use a way to help them understand the subject matter to be taught. We must know the pattern of learning styles of students in the hope that it can lead to understanding the subject matter and finding talents, interests and directions in learning. Thus, the subject matter can be achieved by maksimal. The learning styles of students are divided into three parts, namely 1) Visual learning styles, namely, students learn by seeing something in the form of pictures, videos, maps, graphs and others; 2) Audiotorial learning style, which is the process of learning by hearing something. In the process, educators can use media and methods such as radio, lectures and discussions; and 3) Kinesthetic learning style, i.e. learning by moving and experiencing directly. The implementation strategy is learning with projects, laboratories and field visits. So, students are unique in their way of learning and also absorb the subject matter taught. For this reason, as an educator, it is an obligation to know the characteristics and learning styles of students because it is part of the educational responsibilities and competencies that educators must possess.

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