



ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE OF STUDENT TEACHERS

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Abstract

The present paper throws light on the concept of social intelligence. Now a day's new concept of intelligence has been emerged. It is called multiple intelligence. According to Karl Albrecht's simplified interpretation, we can think of human beings as having six primary dimensions of intelligence- Abstract, Social, Practical, Emotional, Aesthetic, Kinesthetic. Social intelligence is important for teachers as they have to interact with students, parents etc. They require high level of social intelligence. The present paper focuses on the concept of SI and how this SI of teacher trainees can be enhanced.

Key words- Social Intelligence, Dimensions, Enhancement, Activities



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Introduction

In teaching- learning process everybody is acquainted with the word 'intelligence'. Intelligence means to perceive and retain knowledge and apply it to its self or other instances of knowledge. The term intelligence is used to denote powers or capacities of individual. It differs from one individual to another and from one species to another in terms of the range and depth of the operation. In recent years concept of intelligence have undergone considerable changes. Prof Howard Gardner of Harvard University advances a theory of multiple intelligence. Gardner's "MI" theory has become widely accepted in recent years. Professor Gardner has proposed various categories of intelligence over the years of his research, typically suggesting seven of them. In as much as he and others have recently been rearranging the categories and in some cases debating about how many intelligences we

have, Karl Albrecht has taken the liberty of recasting them into a simpler model which is useful in business and professional settings. According to Karl Albrecht's simplified interpretation, we can think of human beings as having six primary dimensions of intelligence- Abstract, Social, Practical, Emotional, Aesthetic, Kinesthetic.

Concept of Social Intelligence-

Some definitions of social intelligence

1. Edward Thorndike (1920 the original definition)

Social Intelligence is the ability to understand and manage men and women, boys and girls to act wisely in human relation.

2. Sean Foleno-

Social Intelligence is a person's competence to comprehend his or her environment optimally and react appropriately for socially successful conduct.

3. Moss and Hunt-

Person's ability to get along with others.

4. Compbell Mc cord-

Social Intelligence is just general intelligence applied to social situation.

5. M. Babu-

Social Intelligence is the ability to deal efficiently and thoughtfully, keeping one's own identity, employing apposite social inputs with a wider understanding of social environment, considering empathetic cooperation as base of social acquaintance.

From the above definitions we can say that social intelligence is closely related to cognition and emotional intelligence. Social Intelligence is equivalent to interpersonal intelligences. One of the types of intelligence identified in Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligence and closely related to theory of mind. More recently, popular science writer Daniel Goleman has drawn on social neuroscience research to propose that social intelligence is made up of social awareness (including empathy, attunement, empathic accuracy and social cognition) and social facility (including synchrony ,self presentation , influence and concern). Goleman's research indicates that our social relationships have a direct effect on our physical health and the relationship the deeper the impact. Effect include blood flow, breathing , mood such as fatigue & depression and weakening of the immune system. Social Intelligence is the capacity to effectively negotiate complex social relationships and

environments. Psychologist Nicholas Humphrey believes that it is social intelligence, rather than quantitative intelligence, that defines humans. Social scientist Ross Honeywill believes social intelligence is an aggregated measure of self and social awareness, evolved social beliefs and attitudes, and a capacity and appetite to manage complex social change.

It can be said that Social Intelligence is the ability to get along well with others, and to get them to cooperate with you. Sometimes referred to simplistically as “people skills”, SI includes an awareness of situations and the social dynamics that govern them, and a knowledge of interaction styles and strategies that can help a person achieve his or her objective in dealing with others. It also involves a certain amount of self insight and a consciousness of one’s own perceptions and reaction patterns. Various dimensions are included in social intelligence.

Dimensions of Social Intelligence-

According to research psychologists Social Intelligence has different and compatible dimensions. Each dimension shows us a picture of our social interaction from a particular point of view.

1. **Primal Empathy-** It is the skill of building connections with people-the capacity to get people to meet you on a personal level of respect and willingness to cooperate. Empathy, in this case, goes beyond the conventional definition of having a feeling toward another person; here, it means creating a mutual feeling between yourself and another person.
2. **Attunement-** It is the ability to listen to the thoughts of others patiently.
3. **Social Cognition-** It is the aspect which indicates the understanding capacity of an individual. It also includes the process of getting information about functions of society.
4. **Cooperativeness-** It may be defined as a process in which the members of a group work together for mutually agreed goals. The goals of the members in such situation may not necessarily be identical, but their attainment usually result in the satisfaction of all the members in the group.
5. **Situational awareness-** It is the ability to observe and understand the context of a situation you may find yourself in, and to understand the ways in which the situation dominates or shapes the behavior of the people in it.
6. **Recognition of social environment-** It is the ability to understand the social environment, behavior of people in social context and adjust ourselves with this environment.

7. **Patience-** It is the ability to accept or tolerate delay, problems or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious. It denotes calm, self possessed and underpinning bearing of pain, misfortune.

8. **Sensitivity-** It is the ability to respond to affective changes in our interpersonal environment. It is the quality or condition of being sensitive. It is the capacity to respond to changes in the environment.

9. **Confidence level-** It is the belief that we all are equal. It is a feeling that there is nobody better than me because we are all human beings with their virtues and defects. It is a faith that that I will act in a right, proper or effective way. These are some of the dimensions of social intelligence. It is has been proved that social intelligence of an individual can be developed. Education helps us in developing SI.

Enhancement of Social Intelligence- Education does not take place in vacuum. It reflects, and at times challenges, social, economic, political and intellectual contexts of its age. Delor's, report states, "If it is to succeed in its tasks, education must be organized around four fundamental types of learning which throughout a person's life will in a way be the pillars of knowledge: learning to know, that is acquiring the instruments of understanding: learning to do, so as to be able to act creatively on one's environment; learning to live together, so as to participate and cooperate with other people in all human activities; and learning to be, an essential progression which proceeds from the previous three." Education should make it possible to avoid conflicts or resolve them peacefully by developing respect for other people, their cultures and their emotions. High social intelligence will help the teachers to avoid conflicts, to understand the students better and to make the education process more qualitative. Teacher trainees are future teachers. So they should get have high social intelligence. With the help of following activities suggested for various dimensions of social intelligence the level of SI of teacher trainees can be increased.

Sr.No.	Activities as per dimensions	Psychological theory
1.	Patience- Meditation Programme, Exercises to develop patience, Self awareness programme, SWOT analysis	Gestalt Theory
2.	Cooperativeness- Games, Event management, Organization of various programmes, Cooperative learning, Collaborative learning	Theory of learning
3.	Confidence level- Confidence building game, Workshop, Elocution competition, Various	Theory of personality

4.	activities for self expression Sensitivity- Role-play, Complete the story, Visit to old age home, Social movies, Dramatization, Documentaries	Social learning theory, Theories of emotions
5.	Recognition of social environment- Showing of documentary films, Discussion about social issues, Social service camp, Lectures by experts, Visit to special schools, Poster presentation	Social learning theory
6.	Tactfulness- Situated learning, Project based learning, Field work, Visits	Theory of learning
7.	Sense of humour- Drawing cartoons, Reading funny books, collection of cartoons, workshop on use of humour in lessons, Poster presentation	Relief theory, General theory of verbal humour
8.	Memory- Memory games, Recall test, Recognition test, puzzles, Sudoku	Theory of memory

Conclusion-

People with high levels of social intelligence have an awareness of other people's feelings and motives and use this understanding to navigate social situations appropriately, whereas those low on social intelligence are less attuned to other people's feelings and perspectives. For instance, someone displaying socially intelligent behavior would recognize a shift in someone's tone or demeanor and might adjust his or her own behavior accordingly. Teachers require high level of social intelligence as they have to interact with students and society. It can be developed by organizing various activities in the college.

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