**Introduction:**

A learning style is how a person learns best from a given scenario. Depending on the situation and what the person aims for would decide which different learning approach be more appropriate for the highest possible outcome. An example is the leaving certificate, or a continuous assessment in a post leaving certificate course or even in a work environment. One type of learning would not be as sufficient for one course as oppose to another, like studying for the leaving certificate is not an approach many people would take for a continuous assessment.

Reasons would be one person way of thinking would not be the same as another person. For example, a person who has wonderful creative mind would look at another person’s page of textual document/ equation and think “what is that person doing” as the writing is all over the page. Neatness for one person may not suit another person, that they would need a messy environment to work. Another example is the amount of pressure imposed on to a person may get one person to work more efficient, but make another person boil to the state of total stress that it makes them pass out. Each person learning method is unique to one person as to another, which can be applied to every different given situation.

The definition of learning styles, as applied to everyone, regardless of their position, is “an individual's best method of gaining knowledge”. This literal meaning does not say for a certain group of people. This means these methods are universal. The best method for one person could be in preparation for a future exam in college in a ‘Developed country’, or trying to obtain the cleanest water possible in order to survive in a ‘Under-Developed Country’. Depending on each person knowledge would determine which learning style to use and how to implement it.

For example, in the “Honey and Mumford Learning styles”, There are four main types of learning, known as “Theorist, Activist, Pragmatist and Reflector”. These learning styles, which will be furthered explained, are in everyone in some shape or form. It may be the case that one person is more of an Activist Learner than a Reflector type of learner, but all four-learning style are applicable to everyone.

Honey and Mumford based their learning styles on the Kolb version of the learning styles. Their version was first published in 1982 and newer editions were published since then, with newer editions containing more accurate questionnaires etc. These books were published by Peter Honey’s company. Since these versions, more types of learning styles has evolved, such as “Howard Garder’s Nine Learning styles”. The thing they all have in common is each one is applied to each person in some shape has some of these characteristics, that not one applies to one person. It is up to each person to discover theirs.

**Brief Overview:**

Theorist learning is learning by reading facts, quotes and statistics. Everything that has been done in some shape of form has a fact, quote or a formula behind it. For example, Why are ‘for loops’ loops etc. Activist learning is done by doing. It is the process of doing an activity associated with the topic they are adopting to. For example, if a code was had to be learned, the activist would learn by trying to implement the code onto the screen and seeing the result.

Pragmatist learning is learning by taking a certain formula and testing it. The trial and error process is the best way for them. If a code statement was passed onto them, they would test it to see if it ran properly. If yes, they would note this, but if not, they would either discard the entire thing or the bit that is destroying the function. Reflector learning is learning by going back over what has been done or seeing others doing it before trying it for themselves. If an activist for coding away on the computer, the Reflector would learn best by sitting beside the coder and watch what is going on, and decide then if the learning was satisfactory standard.

How these are demonstrated in daily life is the everyone activities we see every day. In college, as a student there is a variety of methods which you must do to thrive in college. The same applies in work area, where again you are reinforcing what you are learning to push forward on what need to be done to get paid. The three types of learning stances are “The Completion Stance, The Performance Stance and The Development Stance”.

The Development stance is the most sufficient type of learning, where as much learning is done as possible, whereas The Completion Stance contrasts as little effort as possible is done just to ensure the work is done, so the person can move on. The Performance Stance is an average amount of work put in so the work can be a certain type of standard, but not near perfect. All three correspond with the learning mechanisms “Active Learning vs Passive learning”. Active Learning involves engaging in the topic with effort in a higher standard, whereas passive learning involves learning with some effort, but not engaging.

Active learning and passive learning are both used even by other creatures, like a bear cub watching its mother hunt for fish, then years later tries it out for itself. Both have its strengths and weaknesses, but active learning has proven to be more beneficial to the human population, where the activist is doing the activity, the reflector is watching the activist, the pragmatist has given the activity to the activist or the theorist providing the theory in the first place. It has to be an engaging topic for the people to learn in a more constructive way and remember it for a longer period of time. If learned in a non-engaging, passive way, studies shows we learn a lot less. This is the brief overview of the depth of the “Learning styles Topic”.