

TESTING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE USING
HOWARD GARDNER'S MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE THEORY

BY

HASSAN AMINATH AMANY

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Faculty of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts
UCSI University
Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Education is an essential component of the world today. Theories and concepts relating to education are developed day by day. It aids the lecturers, educators to improve the quality of teaching and as well as students to learn distinctive ways to acquire education according to individual preference. This study refers to Howard Gardner, who identified eight distinctive Multiple Intelligences (MI) namely, Linguistic or verbal, Logical mathematical, Musical, Spatial, Bodily-kinesthetic, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal and Naturalistic. Gardner believes each of us have all the different types of intelligence to varying degrees. These multiple intelligences are related to how an individual prefers to learn and process information. This study was a survey in nature testing multiple intelligence if undergraduate students in Malaysia, using Multiple Intelligence Developmental Assessment Scales (MIDAS) Adult version targeted for 20yrs and above; an instrument developed by Shearer to measure multiple intelligence of human being. In addition, it identifies gender differences in Multiple Intelligences. For research sample size, 368 undergraduate students from different universities participated in this study and T-test analysis was used to examine gender difference. In terms of findings, no significant difference was found between male and female undergraduates and Multiple Intelligences. No significant difference was shown in terms of gender and each type of Multiple Intelligences. This may be due to several reasons, possibly because the teaching system (syllabus and the activities) of the schools they followed were quite similar that they have acquired a similar knowledge and perhaps students have so far not analyzed their own interests in accordance to career and further studies. This finding can provide important information to the education system, society and students. Furthermore, it suggests a need for further consideration and exploration in similar research in Malaysia.

Keywords: gender, multiple intelligences, undergraduates, university, Malaysia