PERSONAL LEARNING THEORY

Unit 8:

Personal Learning Theory

Discussion & Assignment

(300 words: <u>excluding</u> title on p. 2 & *nine reference numbers*)

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Personal Learning Theory

Learning is a process occurring when learners acquire memories and develop behaviors. It is facilitated by active (8) knowledge acquisition, which is the focus of learner-centered instructional design. Learning entails integration of information, reinforced by comprehensive assessment procedures. Since learning requires the fulfilment of personal skill sets, the teacher's role is to provide adequate scaffolding. As learning also demands social participation, educators must situate cognition culturally by creating authentic learning experiences within communities of practice (1).

Learner-centered education

Humans are organic beings, have feelings, possess the ability to reason, and live within social contexts. All these characteristics influence learning operations by filtering experiences through perceptions and attitudes. Consequently, effective learning comes with spirited participation; self-regulation (5); opportunities to reflect about one's own biases; and avenues to share and modify understanding.

Creating knowledge

Learning by trial and error, as presented by behaviourists (9), consolidates individual knowledge. From a constructivist perspective (4), interactivity also optimizes learning. Information can therefore be classified and encoded in the long term memory, as emphasized by cognitivism (6) through inquiry-based group work (2). Furthermore effective online learning fosters adjustment of previous assumptions through networking, as advocated by connectivism (7).

Learning assessment

Transferability (3) and knowledge expansion are crucial aspects of learning and are supported by assessment strategies incorporating well defined diagnostic, formative and summative components.

Affective, intellectual and psychomotor competences are integral to learning and demand frequent

evaluations (5).

Teaching to learn and contribute

Learning is enhanced when teachers nurture learners' self-confidence by presenting challenging

tasks in an organized fashion; welcoming students' input; giving learners pertinent guidance and

fostering constructive learning environments. Experienced educators link scholarly achievements to

relevant collective involvement.

Conclusion

My learning theory is based on a learner-centered educational perspective, supported by motivating

and structured learning events; continuous and purposeful feedback, as well as meaningful interaction

leading to personal autonomy and responsible social contribution.

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