

Abstract

The research aims to develop an arts curriculum based on the Multiple Intelligences theory (MI theory). It analyzes how MI can be applied to the sixth grade arts lesson in primary education, to discover its effect on students' performance in learning and intelligent development, also influence their learning and the intelligent performance situation. The subjects of this research include 64 sixth grade students of the Escola Primaria Luso-Chinesa Tamagnini Barbosa. They were divided by groups to learn proposed arts curriculum. The methodology of the research includes action research, self-assessment report, learning portfolio of the student, self-comment questionnaire, the observation record, the teacher diary, interviews and the video recording and photographing. The above means would reflect the performance of the students in the arts lessons and their evaluation of the curriculum.

The tools of this research include self-evaluation, intelligence spectrum, teaching strategy of the curriculum, the profile of the learning process, interview, the self-comment and the follow up questionnaire. The subjects were required to fill into the self-assessment questionnaire subjects before implementing the curriculum to analyze each student's intelligent distribution and their individual superior intelligence. The subjects were then grouped according to the analyzed results. They were then taught through whole class teaching and cooperative learning strategies.

The elements of the proposed arts curriculum and artistic teaching pedagogy include discussion, sharing, cooperative learning and role play. Based on the analysis of the qualitative and quantitative data, the results show that:

1. After the artistic teaching pedagogy with MI, the students' artistic concepts have been reinforced. It showed that the arts curriculum based on MI could improve students' various learning domains and the understanding of the artistic concepts.
2. The degree of understanding of the artistic concepts of the students obtained in the "the course content" and "extracurricular learning activity" through the MI artistic teaching pedagogy were significantly effective. It revealed that the arts curriculum designed to the students could facilitate students learning.
3. The analysis of the "MI's distribution of the self-assessment questionnaire" and "MI performance of the learning portfolio of the student" showed that in the beginning of the artistic learning, the distribution of the MI (superior & inferior) was consistent with the MI performance of the learning portfolio.
4. The analysis of the "MI performance of the learning portfolio of the student" and

“MI performance of self-comment questionnaire” showed that after the artistic learning class, the interpersonal and introspective intelligent of the students were obviously improved. In the learning portfolio process, their superior & inferior intelligent were positive related to that of the self-assessment report.

5. The analysis of the “MI’s distribution of the self-assessment questionnaire” and “Self-assessment to the MI intelligence of the follow up questionnaire” showed that after receiving the new curriculum, the MI intelligent of the subjects had been significant improved.
6. After the study of integrating MI into arts teaching, the researcher would like to advocate that : (i) while designing the curriculum, the content should be adjusted according to the learning abilities of each student, (ii) apply proper materials and teaching methods to reinforce students’ interest and self-confidence, (iii) teachers should design some intelligence-fair assessment in the curriculums so that students can handle it in their own intelligence, (iv) teachers should provide proper instructions to develop and promote students’ multiple intelligence. In the aspect of pedagogy, using MI teaching assessment can motivate students to learn. Moreover, special attention should be pad to the smoothness and elasticity of the teaching procedure. It is also important to deal properly with and manage students’ emotional problems.