

## "It's not HOW smart you are ...it's how YOU are smart" ... A brief on Multiple Intelligences

Usha Ramakrishnan

Howard Gardner's\*\* theory of Multiple Intelligences has ushered in a new way to our understanding of intelligence and nurturing potential. The way is path breaking...and has many implications for parents and schools. It enables us effectively help all children in their learning and performances even as we understand and enable our own potential!

The theory states that different people are intelligent differently and in unique ways, that intelligence is not a single or general ability, which can be measured by an IQ test, rather is specific and discrete, and has to be assessed on specific jobs. Gardner says, "it's not **how smart** you are," "it's how **YOU** are smart"

The theory states that people are not more or less intelligent; rather they are intelligent differently and in multiple ways (not only with reading writing and maths!) that intelligence involves a set of skills to solve problems and create products.

### The Multiple Intelligences

Linguistic intelligence -the intelligence of writers and poets

Musical intelligence - the intelligence of composers

Logical Mathematical intelligence -the intelligence of scientists and mathematicians

Spatial intelligence -the intelligence of artists and architects.

Bodily Kinesthetic intelligence -the intelligence of dancers sportsmen and gymnasts

Interpersonal intelligence -the intelligence of statesmen and social activists

Intrapersonal intelligence -the intelligence of philosophers

Naturalist intelligence -the intelligence of environmentalists

Every child has a unique profile and a combination of intelligences. They indicate what the child would enjoy doing, be good at naturally and may pursue later in life as a career! The profile also indicates how the child processes information, and learns best. However the intelligences need opportunities to develop further and for the child to realise his potential!

Every child is unique! Developing one's unique potential sets foundations for self esteem, confidence, and better performance in school and for life... The theory has great implications, and is valuable for teachers, parents children, schools and our education system.

The theory was posited in the 1980s, by Howard Gardner (Professor of Cognition and Education at the Harvard School of Education at Harvard University USA. after an intense research study which sought to find out "what is human potential". The research brought together, a deep understanding of how the brain works, and how different intelligences are valued in different cultures The theory also summarized the salient points of other studies of intelligence and gave it a new orientation