

The Role of Cognitive Style in Creative Thinking among College Students



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Abstract

Cognitive style or thinking style is a term used in cognitive psychology to describe the way individuals think, perceive & remember information. Cognitive style is an important key concept in the area of psychology, education & management. Some students process information & make decisions creatively while some traditionally. The present study aimed at to explore the relationship between cognitive style and creativity among college students. It was hypothesized that systematic and intuitive cognitive style will positively related to fluency, flexibility, & originality among college students. The fluency, flexibility, & originality are the components of creative thinking. For this study 120 students-ranged at age 18 to 20-years were selected randomly. The cognitive style inventory & creative thinking scale were administered to the students. The obtained data analyzed through Pearson product moment correlation (PPMC). Result revealed that systematic cognitive style & intuitive cognitive style were positively & significantly related to originality. In the present research, the relationship between cognitive style & creative thinking is discussed.

Keywords: Systematic and Intuitive Cognitive Style, Fluency, Flexibility, Creativity

Introduction

The creative thinking is a greatest ornament of college students. The creative person can achieve his goal easily than the other students. The creative person differs himself naturally from other students. Creativity may develop remarkably from the college days. The development of creative thinking is mostly depending on how we perceive our environment. The role of cognitive style in academic achievement of college students has been searched worldwide scholars Vikas S Kamble [1]; Suet ChingLuk [2]; Margaret Ngengele Musya [3]. In the present study an effort has been made to find out the role of cognitive style in creative thinking among college students. The cognitive style or thinking style is a term used in cognitive psychology to describe the way individuals think, perceive and remember information. The cognitive style is classified into two broad categories.

Field Dependence and Field Independence

Field dependence/independence refers to the extent to which a learner perception is influenced by environment or context. Field dependent students experience difficulties to find the information they are looking for because other contextual stimuli tend to impede it. Field independent learners easy distinguish the relevant information from surrounding its

components. Field independents are more likely to create their own models when trying to understand a perceived field. The field dependents are more fixed to the explanation format that has been proposed and have a tendency to accept information without restructuring and reorganizing it.

Creativity

The ability to make new things or think of new ideas-creativity in a sentence. "Creativity is the process of having original ideas that have values." The application of knowledge and skill in new ways, to achieve value outcome". They devise new ways to carry out tasks, solve problems and meet challenges; creative thinkers bring a fresh and sometimes unorthodox perspective to their work. They think "outside the box" and can help departments and organizations to move in a more productive direction. In the present study the creativity has been considered into three main types.

Originality

Originality indicates to the creation of a new idea, without any particular consideration for whether these ideas will be useful or not. So when a person trying to find many possibilities psychologists would call this originality, not creativity. It's

originality that is enhanced by positive moods. So when people are brainstorming ideas, good moods will help them come up with more ideas, all other things being equal Fredrickson BL [4].

Fluency

“The ability to speak easily and smoothly; especially; the ability to speak a foreign language easily & effectively the ability to do something in a way that seems very easy.”

Flexibility

Flexibility is the range of motion in a joint group of joints or the ability to move joints effectively through a complete range of motion. Flexibility training includes stretching exercises to length in the muscles and may include activity like YOGA or TAICHI. “Definition of the flexibility is more complicated than simply being able to do a single stretch”

Objective of the Study

To explore the relationship between cognitive style and creativity among college students

Hypothesis of the Study

The systematic and intuitive cognitive style positively related to fluency, flexibility, and originality among college students

Method

Participants

The sample for this study was drawn from the various colleges of Sanglicity. Altogether 120 students, 60 males, and

Results and Discussion

Table 1: The Relationship between Cognitive Style and Creative Thinking.

Variables	Systematic Cognitive Style	Intuitive Cognitive Style	Fluency	Flexibility	Originality	Creativity
Systematic Cognitive style	1	.436**	.175	.204*	.183*	.213*
Intuitive Cognitive Style		1	.154	.127	.200*	.167
Fluency			1	.778**	.748**	.914**
Flexibility				1	.753**	.918**
Originality					1	.869**
Creativity						1

Table 1 indicating the correlation between cognitive style and creative thinking. It could be observed that systematic cognitive style and fluency does not significantly relate to each other. The systematic cognitive style and flexibility are significantly related to each other. The $r=0.204$ is significant on 0.05 level. However, the relation is poor. The systematic cognitive style and originality are significantly related to each other. The $r=0.183$ is significant on 0.05 level. The intuitive cognitive style positive significantly related to originality. The $r=.200$ is significant 0.05 level. However, fluency, flexibility are not significantly related.

60 females participated in the study. They were studying in agriculture, ITI, commerce, and medical faculty. Their age was ranged between 18 to 22 years.

Materials

Cognitive Style Inventory for College Students (CSI)

It was developed by Dr. Pravin Kumar Jha and it contains five sub-test including 40 items. It is a self-report inventory measure the way of thinking, judging, remembering, storing information, and decision making. The scale consists of 66 multiple choice items, like five points Likert-type scale with response options ranging from strongly agree to disagree strongly. The core of mainly focus on integrated

Creative Thinking Scale for College Students (TCW)

It was developed by Baqer Mehdi and it contains four pre-tests. It calculates creativity positional of pupils for their proper education and training. This test mainly focuses on creativity talent at all stages of education, except pre-primary and primary

Procedure

Randomly selected students are informed to solve these scales without any hesitation and without paying lots of attention. Researcher conduct this session with forming a rapport with students. The suitable time is given them followed by the instructions by using simply understandable and easily comprehends language.

Conclusion

From this study it is inferred that the systematic cognitive style and creativity is poorly related to each other.

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