



## LEARNING STYLE OF ESTATE WORKERS' CHILDREN IN THENI AND DINDIGUL DISTRICTS

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### ABSTRACT :

Individual differences account for individual style of learning. Each and every one of us is different in perception and understanding concepts and theories. Learning theories are nothing but differences in individuals' learning. People can be classified according to their learning styles. Among all other factors involved in the teaching and learning, the learning style of an individual plays a significant role. Hence, the investigator wanted to study the level of learning style among children of estate workers. The study was carried out with the following objectives: To find out the level of learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard and to find out significant difference in the learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard in terms of gender and study habit. In order to find out learning style among children of estate worker, the investigator developed and validated a tool on learning style. The investigator selected 50 IX standard students from wards of estate workers in Theni and Dindigul districts. The data were analyzed using appropriate statistical tests. The results show that the estate workers' children studying IX standard are having good learning style. The girls are superior in learning style than boys. The study habit does not influence the learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard.



**KEYWORDS :** Learning Style, Estate Workers' Children, Theni district, Dindigul District.

### NEED FOR THE STUDY

Individual differences account for individual style of learning. Each and every one of us is different in perception and understanding concepts and theories. Learning theories are nothing but differences in individuals' learning. People can be classified according to their learning styles. It is stemming from the basic thing that is people differ in how they learn. It is obvious among school children, college going students and all others.

### TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Learning Style—according to Wikipedia refers to a range of competing and contested theories that aim to account for differences in individuals' learning.

Estate Workers- refers to laborer's in tea estates, coffee plantations, cardamom plantations etc.

Theni and Dindigul Districts – refers to two districts out of 32 districts in Tamil Nadu with huge cover of hilly areas.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has formulated the following objectives:

1. To find out the level of learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard.
2. To find out significant difference in the learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard in terms of gender.
3. To find out significant difference in the learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard in terms of study habit.

### HYPOTHESES FORMULATED FOR THE STUDY

The hypotheses are stated as follows:

1. The learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard is average.
2. The learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard do not significantly differ in terms of gender.
3. The learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard do not significantly differ in terms of study habit.

### INSTRUMENTATION

The investigator developed and validated a rating scale on learning style. The ratings were: Agree, Undecided, and Disagree.

### ESTABLISHING VALIDITY OF THE TOOL:

The investigator has consulted assistant professors in the department of education in Madurai Kamaraj University to check the content in the rating scale. The opinions of them were carried out in the tool. It ensures face and content validity of the rating scale.

According to Garret, H.E (1967, P, 365) the index of reliability is sometimes taken as a measure of validity.

### ESTABLISHMENT RELIABILITY OF THE TOOL:

#### TEST AND RETEST METHOD:

The rating scale was administered among the 20 IX standard students of estate workers in Theni district as a try out and re-administered among the same 20 IX standard students after a gap of 15 days. The correlation was found out between first and second administration of the rating scale. The correlation between the two responses was 0.88. It is high correlation. Hence, it is assumed that the tool has reliability.

### SCORING:

The score for the responses Agree, Undecided and Disagree were 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The scores for all the 42 items worked out. The maximum score would be 126 and minimum would be 42.

### SAMPLE DESIGN

The investigator has followed random sampling method for the present study. The investigator has collected a sample of 50IX standard students of estate workers studying Theni and Dindigul districts.

### ANALYSIS

#### HYPOTHESIS 1.

The learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard is average.

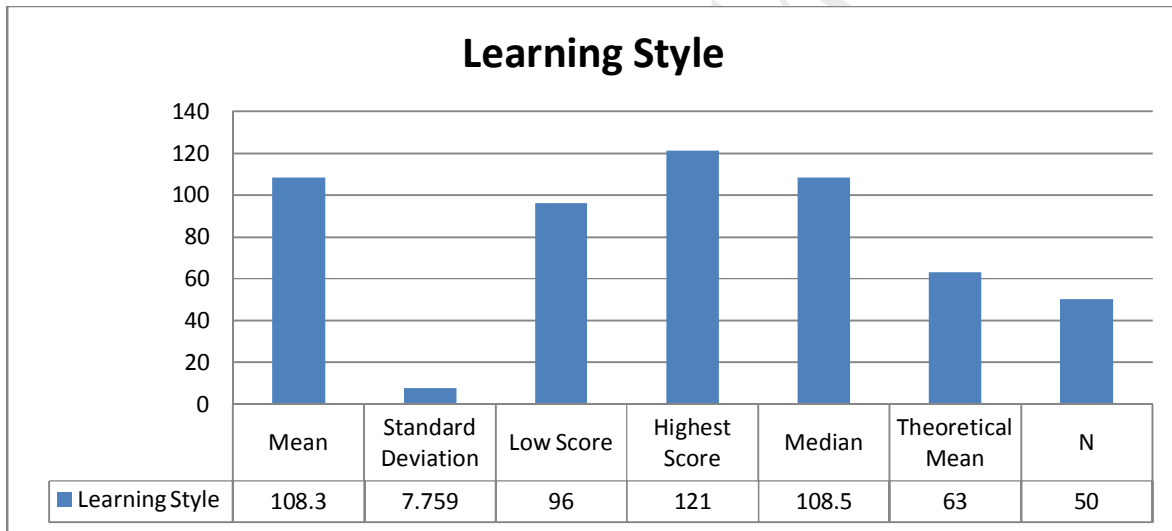
The details regarding the responses of children of estate workers studying in IX standard for the rating on learning style is presented in the following Table 1.

**TABLE – 1 DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS FOR THE LEARNING STYLE OF ESTATE WORKERS' CHILDREN**

S.No	Description	Learning Style
1.	Mean	108.30
2.	Standard Deviation	7.759
3.	Low Score	96
4.	Highest Score	121
5.	Median	108.50
6.	Theoretical Mean	63
8.	N	50

It is evident from Table 4.1 that the mean and median values for the learning style of estate workers' children are 108.30 and 108.50 respectively. The standard deviation found out was 7.759. The highest score is 121 and the lowest score is 96. The theoretical mean is 63. The mean and median for the learning style are well above the theoretical mean. Hence, it is can be concluded that the learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard is high.

**FIGURE 1. :CHART SHOWING DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS FOR THE LEARNING STYLE OF ESTATE WORKERS' CHILDREN**



**HYPOTHESIS 2.**

The learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard do not significantly differ in terms of gender.

The details regarding the significant difference in the learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard in terms of gender are presented in the following Table 2.

**TABLE: 2 SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN THE LEARNING STYLE OF ESTATE WORKERS' CHILDREN STUDYING IX STANDARD IN TERMS OF GENDER**

S.No	Sub groups	N	M	S.D	"t"	Critical value	Level of significance
1.	Boys	40	105.75	6.380	6.151	1.960 for difference of 48 at 0.05 level	Significant
2.	Girls	10	118.50	2.635			

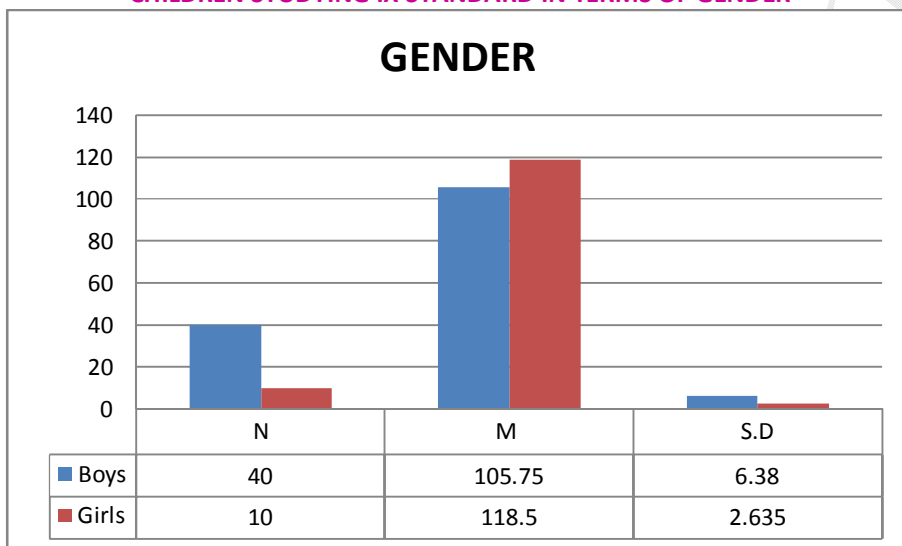
S-Significance

NS- No significance

It is evident from Table 2 that the obtained 't' value is 6.151. It is higher than the critical value of 1.960 for difference of 48 at 0.05 levels. There exist significant difference in the learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard in terms of gender. Hence, the null hypothesis 2 stated is rejected. The girls are found to be having higher level of learning style than boys as it is evidenced from their mean values. (Boys mean value is 105.75 while that of girls is 118.50)

It is concluded that the female children of estate workers studying IX standard is having high level of learning style than male children of estate workers studying IX standard. The learning style of children of estate workers' studying IX standard do differ in terms of gender.

**FIGURE 2. CHART SHOWING SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN THE LEARNING STYLE OF ESTATE WORKERS' CHILDREN STUDYING IX STANDARD IN TERMS OF GENDER**



**HYPOTHESIS 3.**

The learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard do not significantly differ in terms of study habit.

The details regarding the significant difference in the learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard in terms of study habit are presented in the following Table 3.

**TABLE 3. SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN THE LEARNING STYLE OF ESTATE WORKERS' CHILDREN STUDYING IX STANDARD IN TERMS OF STUDY HABIT**

S.No	Sub groups	N	M	S.D	"t"	Critical value	Level of significance
1.	Group Study	45	107.888	8.082	1.127	1.960 for difference of 48 at 0.05 level	Not Significant
2.	Individual Study	5	112.00	2.090			

S-Significance

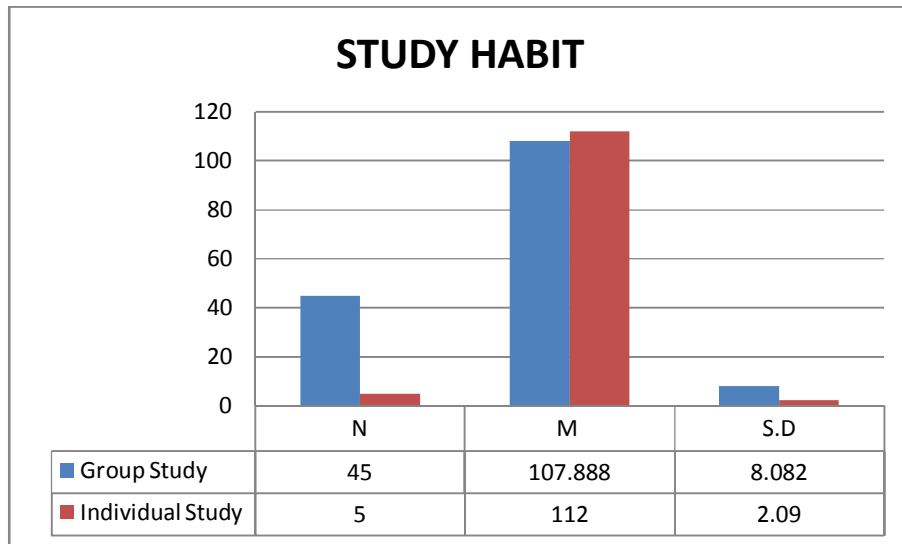
NS- No significance

It is evident from Table 3 that the obtained 't' value is 1.127. It is lower than the critical value of 1.960 for difference of 48 at 0.05 levels. There is no significant difference in the learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard in terms of study habit. Hence, the null hypothesis 3 stated is

accepted. The result indicates that the learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard do not differ in terms of study habit.

It is concluded that the variable study habit does not influence the learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard.

**FIGURE 3. CHART SHOWING SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN THE LEARNING STYLE OF ESTATE WORKERS' CHILDREN STUDYING IX STANDARD IN TERMS OF STUDY HABIT**



#### FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. The learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard is high.
2. The learning style of children of estate workers' studying IX standard do differ in terms of gender. The female children of estate workers studying IX standard is having high level of learning style than male children of estate workers studying IX standard.
3. The variable study habit does not influence the learning style of estate workers' children studying IX standard.

#### EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study has revealed that majority of the children of estate workers studying IX standard are having high level of learning style. The female children of estate workers do have high level of learning style than male children. The variable study habit does not influence the learning style of estate workers' children. It is heartening to note that though the children are in hilly areas, the learning style of them does not fade away. Even in hill areas the girls outperform boys as it is evident in this study. The variable study habit does not influence the learning style of estate workers children. The reason being both group study and individual study are not affecting the individual learning style. May be further research on this would throw more light on this aspect.

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