

Howard Gardner was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania from immigrant parents, who fled from Germany during the war. He earned his degrees at Harvard University and he is currently Professor of Cognition and Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education. Among numerous honors, Gardner received a MacArthur Prize Fellowship in 1981. He has received honorary degrees from twenty-two colleges and universities, including institutions in Chile, Ireland, Israel, and Italy. He is the author of over twenty books translated into twenty-seven languages, and several hundred articles. Dr Gardner is best known for his theory of multiple intelligences, a critique of the notion that there exists but a single human intelligence that can be assessed by standard psychometric instruments. Professor Gardner was in Greece in order to receive an honorary PhD from Athens Kapodistrian University. Howard Gardner has authored more than 20 books, translated into twenty-seven languages and has published several hundred articles. Among numerous honours, Dr. Gardner received a MacArthur Prize Fellowship in 1981. He has received honorary degrees from twenty-two Colleges and Universities, including institutions in Chile, Ireland, Israel and Italy.

Dr. Gardner explained, intelligence is not unique and single, that it results from a single factor, and that it can be measured simply via IQ tests, but it comprises of separate, distinguishable and independent units, which are located in different parts of the brain. He has identified 8 intelligences: Bodily-kinaesthetic, Interpersonal, Verbal-linguistic, Logical Mathematical, Naturalistic, Intrapersonal, Visual-spatial, and musical. Dr. Gardner's two main principles are that all humans have these intelligences, something that differentiates us from animals, and that not two human beings, even identical twins, express these intelligences in the same way. Indeed, intelligence is contingent on the environment, stimuli, experiences, effort of the individual.

For many years, schools have emphasized the assessment of logical intelligence and linguistic intelligence, as evidence of academic achievement and career success. Gardner's theory argues that students will be better served by a broader vision of education, wherein teachers use different methodologies, exercises and activities to reach all students, not just those who excel at linguistic and logical intelligence. In this way, students will not be victims of hidden discrimination by being tested only on the basis of these two intelligences. Therefore, as teachers we are required to differentiate among learners and to teach in different ways in order to accommodate different intelligences and learning styles.

Howard Gardner's theory is not limited to education only; it applies to the world of business and industry as well. The manager-leader of a team should bear in mind that not all employees are the same, and knowledge of multiple intelligences can help companies build better teams and take decisions more effectively.

According to Dr. Gardner, we all can and must develop our various intelligences in the highest possible level. However, we ought to do so according to commonly accepted principles and values. Hitler was very bright and Bin Laden very creative; however, they have different principles, ethos and values than

the ones we have. Indeed, he concluded his lecture by quoting Ralph Waldo Emerson in saying that ultimately “character is higher than intellect”.

Dr. Gardner is currently involved in two major projects; The Project Zero (Harvard), which is about the design of performance-based assessments, education for understanding, and the use of multiple intelligences to achieve more personalized curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and Good Work Project, which is a large scale, multi-site effort to identify individuals and institutions that exemplify good work—work that is excellent in quality, socially responsible, and meaningful to its practitioners.