

Padagdag, Ronnaveth*Library use and materials in a school employing the multiple intelligence approach : a case study of the School of the Sacred Heart of San Jose City Library**

In 1983, Dr. Howard Gardner together with his team of researchers from the Harvard Graduate School of Education founded and introduced the Theory of Multiple Intelligence. This theory suggests that individuals see the world in at least eight different and equally important ways--linguistic, logical-mathematical, musical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, naturalist, interpersonal, and intrapersonal—and that educational program should foster the development of all these forms of thinking. There are currently at least 2 schools in Metro Manila that not only base their teaching practices on the theory but also bear it in their schools' names. There are some schools though, that employs the approach but do not bear it in their names. The School of the Sacred Heart of San Jose City (SSHSJC) in Nueva Ecija is among these schools. This study focused on how a school that employs the multiple intelligence approach such as the School of the Sacred Heart of San Jose City makes use, if any, of its library facilities. The researcher collected the data needed with the use of survey questionnaires, interview schedule and observation guide. She distributed questionnaires to the library personnel and members of the faculty in the early stages of data gathering. Informal interviews were also conducted with the school directress and several school personnel as well. Actual classroom and library observation were also conducted during the course of data gathering. SSHSJC was opened in 1999 with 7 students and 2 teachers. At present, it has a total of 107 students from nursery to 6th grade, 9 full-time faculty

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members and 1 library personnel who is also the administrative clerk. There are 10 students at SSSHSJC that are considered exceptional cases or children with special needs. Although these children require special attention in general, they are placed in regular classes in their respective levels. The SSSHSJC library has over 1,000 titles of books including reference materials, storybooks, and social science materials. In addition, each classroom has started to build mini libraries by having mini book shelves. Aside from books, the library also houses several charts, maps, board games, flashcards and globes. These sources are used in several classroom and school-wide activities and contests throughout the school year. SSSHSJC teachers give a lot of research activities, art and literature homework to the students. Even without the issuance of library cards or borrower's cards students are encouraged to utilize the library materials through such activities. Based on the teachers' experiences, the linguistic intelligence is the intelligence that is most enhanced using the library materials and equipment the school currently owns. The SSSHSJC is located in a suburban area employing a non-traditional approach to educating young children. There is currently no known standard in operating a school library with a curriculum that is fully MI leaning. Several recommendations were given in order to maximize the use of the SSSHSJC library to meet its goals of educating young individuals enhancing their multiple intelligences.