
TIINA M. HAUTALA • RESEARCHER • UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

VESA ROUTAMAA • PROFESSOR • UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

The Personalities of Students in Relation to Their Activities and Success in Their Studies

The motivation and effectiveness of time used in studies would be more beneficial if different personalities would be able to use

learning methods which would be more appropriate. The pressures of getting studies done more and more faster, would require options to choose the methods of studying.

In this study the personalities of students have been concerned in relation to their studying activity and succession in studies. Altogether 752 university students participated. They had started their studies in 1998 and 1999. Their study times and success was followed up in three years. Personality was measured with Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). The study concentrated on comparing the differences between personality preferences. These are: Extraversion-Introversion, Sensing-Intuition, Thinking-Feeling and Judging-Perceiving. Results indicated that there were statistically significant differences in success of studies due to the personality. For example, introverted had more success regarding their grades. The last preference pair also indicated differences: judging students had more success in grades, they accomplished more studies and they were also more active, concerning participation in lessons, than spontaneous types. Also statistically significant results were found in the dimensions sensing-intuition and thinking-feeling.

These results support earlier studies (Myers & McCaulley, 1990), where introverts, intuitives and judging persons were found to be faster students than others. However, these results indicate also that our school and university system supports this kind of learning. ■