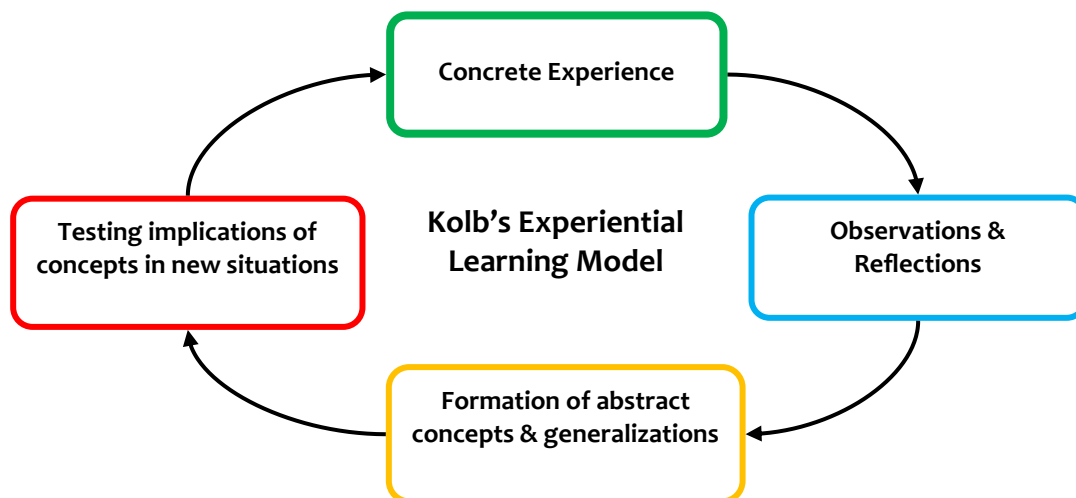


Learning Circles as Experiential Learning



Learning circles are considered to be experiential learning or learning through experience. This is a non-traditional type of learning which is particularly suited to adult education as it supports informal and non-formal aspects to learning, and because experience is highly valued by adults. Experiential learning involves movement back and forth between action and reflection and through a cycle of learning phases. A commonly used experiential learning model is one developed by the educational theorist David Kolb (2007, p. 1). Kolb explains that there are four different learning abilities involved in experiential learning: “Experiencing, reflecting, thinking and acting [which cycle] in a recursive process that is responsive to the learning situation and what is being learned.”

Below is a diagram of a learning cycle based on experiential learning theory:



Adapted from Kolb's Experiential Model (Knowles et al, 2011, p. 196).

References:

Knowles, M.S., Holton, E.F., & Swanson, R.A. (2011). *The adult learner: The definitive classic in adult education and human resource development*. Burlington: Elsevier.

Kolb, D.A. (2007). *Kolb Learning Suite: Facilitator's Guide*. Hay Group Transforming Learning.