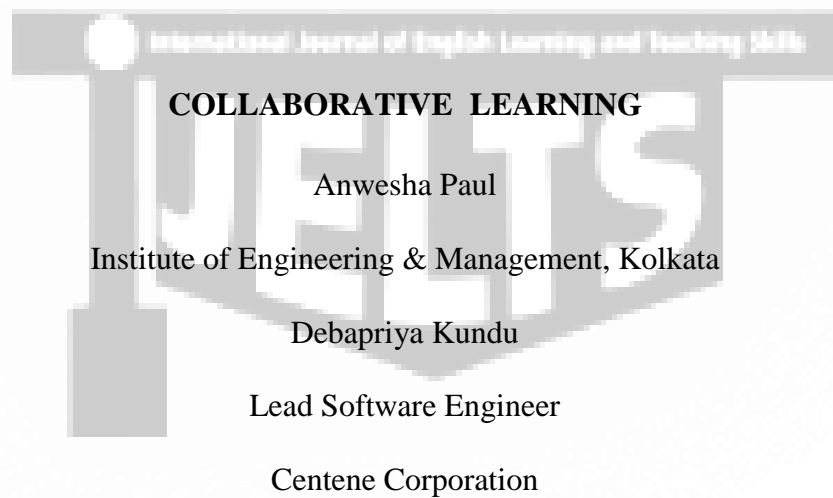


Running Head: COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT:

Collaborative learning is an educational approach to teaching and learning that involves groups of students working together and solve a problem , complete a task or create a product. The paper clarifies the concept of collaborative learning by presenting and analyzing the educational benefits of collaborative learning technique. This allows the students to present their own ideas on literature . The paper also highlights the teacher's perspective on collaborative and individual learning. It highlights the benefits and drawbacks on collaborative learning. The paper concludes with a opinion that collaborative learning is now proved as one of the most modern method of learning and can involve large section of students and teachers through webinar so that a conclusion can be drawn in most effective way. A summative view on collaborative learning is drawn as a conclusion.

keyword- collaborative learning , own ideas , webinar.

INTRODUCTION

The most basic teaching method is explanation in learning/teaching process. Explanation is a tool used by both teachers and students. Its goal is to manifest comprehension. There are various method of instruction which will be discussed below with particular attention to collaborative learning, its advantages and disadvantages.

One definition of collaborative learning is based on the thoughts of J.M.Gerlach:

"...[this type of learning] is based on the idea that learning is a naturally social act in which the participants talk among themselves. It is through the talk that learning occurs."

In the classroom, collaborative learning activities involve students working together in groups to complete a project , solve-problem or create a product. This approach to learning requires students to associate new knowledge to prior knowledge. It helps them to communicate with peers , gather information and be exposed to various perspectives. Collaborative learning pushes students to actively engage with peers, and question ideas as they move forward in finding a solution.

The goal of this approach is to move learning towards a student-centered model of education. The process involve soft skills that are important in the social-emotional development of a learner, such as problem solving, managing emotions and the verbal exchange involving discussion of ideas.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

Learning is the process of acquiring new understanding, knowledge, behaviors, skills and values.

The ability to learn is possessed by humans, animals, even some machines. Day by day human knowledge is increasing by leaps and bounds and one of the main reason for this is the attitude of humans towards learning . Continuous learning also help to keep human fit and healthy both physically and mentally. Moreover, humans also identify the potential problems quickly and try to generate new solutions innovatively by stimulating their minds and keep themselves inspired and passionate about what they perform.

Better learning techniques help to develop the knowledge of humans, increasing the interest for learning through different methods. In these new techniques students are more motivated to learn new things and are less bored. Studies have proved that students are able to grasp even the most challenging concept with the ease and at much swifter pace.

In classroom, teacher's use various teaching strategies to motivate the students towards learning .The lecture method is just one of the several teaching methods, though in schools it's usually considered as the primary one. This is convenient for the institution and cost effective method. While the lecturing method gives the instructor chances to expose students to unpublished or not readily available material, the students plays a passive role which may hinder learning. So verbal feedback of the students is important to arouse interest on a subject.

After this we have the demonstrating method. Demonstrating, which is also called the coaching style, is the process of teaching through examples or experiment. One of the advantages of this method involves the capability to include different formats and instruction material to make the learning process engaging. A science teacher may teach an idea by experiment. This demonstration can be used to prove a fact through a combination of visual evidence an

associated reasoning.

Another method of teaching is through collaborative learning. Collaboration allows students to actively participate in the learning process by having an interactive session with each other. It establishes personal connection between students. Teachers can access student's ability to work as a team, leadership potential, communication skills and presentation abilities.

VARIOUS COLLABORATIVE LEARNING METHOD

- **Classroom discussion:** Most common type of method a teaching in a class where each students are given equal opportunities to interact and put forth their views. An effective classroom discussion can be achieved by probing more question among the students like what ,how, and opinion on implications.
- **Debriefing:** It refers to conversational sessions that revolve around the sharing and examining of information about a specific event. The intent is to help with the experience. Debriefing is daily exercise in most professions it may be psychology, healthcare, politics and business.
- **Classroom action research:** This method of finding out what is best in our own classroom. Here the teacher is well aware about the type of knowledge to be constructed and challenges them to find out new meaning and knowledge.

BENEFITS OF COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

These days' teacher are always on a look out for effective ways through which learning can

be made active and fun. Introducing the concept of social and collaborative learning in education system works very well for this purpose. Advantages are summarized below :

- **Celebration of diversity:** Students learn to work with all types of people. During small group interaction, they find many opportunities to reflect upon and reply to the diverse responses fellow learners bring to the question raised.
- **Captive student attention:** People are drifting towards the midst of technology revolution , where online conversation through the platform of social media is much more active than ever before. Integrating the component of social platform for collaborative learning can make learning feel more natural to the students. It also builds self-confidence within the students and they become outspoken. They also get the chance to share their knowledge .
- **Acknowledgement of individual differences:** When questions are raised, different students will have a variety of responses. Each of these can help the group create a product that reflects a wide range of perspectives and is thus more complete and comprehensive.
- **Interpersonal development:** Students learn to relate their peers and other learners as they work together in group enterprises. This can be especially helpful for students who have difficulties with social skills. Students also develop responsibility for each other. In a learning environment where knowledge sharing is interdependent, students learn to develop responsibility for each other. They understand that their sharing can cause other students to excel and can help them to succeed or improve their result.
- **Involvement of experts:** Social learning is not just a way for peer-to-peer interaction. It facilitates an environment to grow and learn by gaining knowledge from educational experts. An open collaborative learning ecosystem give students the access to connect with experts

and expand their knowledge base, not by some indirect manner like reading or searching but by directly communicating with them.

DISADVANTAGES OF COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

- Low achieving students become passive and do not focus on the task.
- Sometimes they get puzzled on so many questions and it becomes a burden for them.
- Depending on individuals motivation and interest on a particular subject they will determine how well they will learn.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING VS GROUP WORK OR COOPERATIVE LEARNING

Collaborative learning ,group work or cooperative learning are not exclusive of each other. These helps the students to develop higher level thinking ,oral communication ,self management and leadership skills. These also helps to increase the student-faculty interaction.

But there lies s slight difference between them. These are discussed below:

<u>Collaborative learning</u>	<u>Group work</u>
➤ Group effort required .	➤ People gets divided and try to conquer over the positions . ➤ Minimal interaction is required.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Social skills are improved . ➤ Helping and sharing is expected. ➤ Both the process and the final result is important . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Helping and sharing is minimal. ➤ Only the net final result is important.
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<u>Collaborative learning</u>	<u>Cooperative learning</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student organize their efforts themselves. ➤ The activities are not monitored by the teacher. Although assistance is provided when requested from the group. ➤ Success depends on the individual strengths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Teachers assign a specific role for the students. ➤ Teachers observe, listen and intervene when necessary. ➤ Success depends upon the effort of everyone involved.

RESEARCH SUPPORTS THE USE OF COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Academic research showed that a developing child needs to execute their own acquisition of knowledge and manage their behavior. The executive function of brain generally do not fully mature until early adulthood. This means that parents and educators, who uses collaborative learning, have a relatively large contribution in which to positively influence a child and their development.

MODERN METHODS OF COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Collaborative learning is an essential 21st century skill for students in our global society. The most modern method of conducting collaborative learning is through webinars. The webinars focuses on the research and rationale for collaborative learning, and will share ways to ensure participation and engagement for all students through techniques such as Project Based Learning (PBL), Service Learning, Writer's Workshop etc.

CONCLUSIONS

This paper gives us an insight of various methods of learning. It also describes the advantages and disadvantages of different methods. Collaborative learning is one of the most modern method of grasping knowledge. Details of various collaborative learning method is discussed in this paper. It is important that we construct a good design of collaborative learning in order to provide an effective learning experience. There are advantages of collaborative learning in comparison with traditional learning. Students are more engaged in the learning process as they have the opportunity to be active and can raise their own opinions. Large sections of the student can join in a webinar to discuss and learn in a effective manner.

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