



BENEFITS OF COLLABORATIVE TEACHING

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Abstract: Collaborative learning is an educational approach to teaching and learning that involves groups of learners working together to solve a problem, complete a task, or create a product. This review article outlines benefits of learning in collaboration style, begins with the concept of the term and continues with the advantages created by collaborative methods. This paper sets out major benefits of collaborative learning into four categories of; social, psychological, academic, and assessment benefits. Each of them is further subdivided to more specific themes.

Key words: collaboration, discussion, interaction, share ideas, community, brainstorm

Collaborative learning stands as a strategic approach rooted in group dynamics, bringing teams together to achieve a shared objective. A pivotal aspect of collaborative teaching strategy lies in showcasing the positive impact of individual autonomy and the expression of personal abilities while upholding personal responsibility. Within collaborative learning, students engage in joint efforts on tasks or projects.

Crucially, it's worth noting that students collaboratively contribute to a collective goal in this learning style, each tackling a distinct task. The concept hinges on individuals within this environment honing their skills, and witnessing firsthand how their contributions ripple through the group.

Beyond the academic realm, this collaborative synergy extends to the professional sphere, fostering camaraderie and fortifying bonds among teams. It becomes an avenue for individuals to acquaint themselves with their colleagues, gaining insights into both strengths and weaknesses.

This social interplay not only contributes to skill development but also cultivates essential interpersonal abilities like problem-solving, communication, and collaboration.



10 Benefits of Collaborative Learning Collaborative learning makes the learning process enjoyable but also serves as an effective avenue for skill development. Here are ten key benefits of collaborative learning:

#1. Enhancing Problem-Solving Skills

Collaborative learning projects often require groups to complete a task or solve a problem. Throughout this process, participants encounter a spectrum of potential solutions from individuals with diverse opinions and perspectives. People contribute unique ideas that their teammates might not have considered. Subsequently, the group engages in discussions and analysis to identify the best solution.

#2. Fostering Social Interaction

Effective collaborative learning groups necessitate teamwork. These groups may include individuals with different personality types. By working together and sharing ideas, participants can practice and enhance social skills such as active listening, empathy, and respect.

#3. Promoting Diversity

Collaborative learning typically brings together people from diverse backgrounds, beliefs, educational levels, and ages. This diversity can introduce new ideas and perspectives unique to one's culture or education.

#4. Improving Communication Skills

Collaborative learning relies on effective communication to accomplish a task. Participants use verbal communication skills to share ideas, explain concepts, and provide clear and concise feedback. They also employ written communication skills if the task involves activities like group writing or peer editing.

#5. Inspiring Creativity

The amalgamation of different viewpoints and ideas often results in creative solutions in collaborative learning tasks. An individual's idea or suggestion can inspire a new and creative thought from other team members. Collaborative learning nurtures this creative thinking by blending perspectives and personality types.

Imagine yourself in a product designers' brainstorming session at Apple. As the team discusses refining the user interface for a new device, one designer's concept for an intuitive navigation system might ignite a flurry of ideas from others.

#6. Building Trust

Collaborative learning groups must work together to achieve their goal, relying on each other for success. Consequently, they must learn to trust one another.

#7. Boosting Confidence

When working in a group, team members support each other as they progress toward a common goal. Collaborative learning can be particularly beneficial for shy, anxious, or introverted individuals.

#8. Encouraging Commitment

Successful collaborative learning requires the participation of all participants. It encourages passive individuals to become more involved and active in the project or discussion.

This type of learning is an effective way to engage quiet or inactive peers, making them more interested and involved in a project.

#9. Fostering Enjoyment

Learning in a group is more enjoyable and less tedious than reading training materials, listening to a lecture, or watching an instructional video alone. Many collaborative learning activities include fun tasks such as solving puzzles, role-playing, and games.

For instance, in a virtual group project where students collaborate on a case study, they engage in lively discussions via video conferencing, share diverse perspectives through online forums, and simulate problem-solving scenarios using interactive tools. During collaborative learning exercises, teams often feel more comfortable, relaxed, and capable of laughing and having fun.

#10. Cultivating Critical Thinking Skills

Collaborative learning can encourage participants to think at a higher level. They must analyze and discuss information to make the best decision or solve a problem. By having to explain their ideas and interpret and evaluate others' ideas, individuals can improve their critical thinking skills.

Practice that Builds Relationships

Collaborative learning leads to forging new friendships and strengthening existing relationships. It often brings together people who might not have met or worked together under normal circumstances. As team members spend time working together on a collaborative learning project, they get to know each other better. This can lead to positive personal and professional relationships and higher morale. Lastly, if a supervisor or teacher participates in or leads the collaborative learning effort, it can help that person better understand their employees and strengthen their professional relationships.

The Role of Technology in Collaborative Learning

Utilizing technology has the potential to significantly enhance the advantages of collaborative learning, providing innovative solutions to connect and involve students in meaningful ways. Digital platforms play a pivotal role in fostering cooperation and engagement within the educational landscape.

▪ Learning Management Systems

Utilizing learning management systems such as Educate Me, Canvas, Moodle, etc., goes beyond simple collaboration in education; these platforms serve as comprehensive hubs for organizing and delivering educational resources. Moreover, they provide valuable insights into student progress and performance, enabling educators to tailor their teaching methods to address individual needs effectively.

▪ Collaborative Learning Platforms

Digital platforms such as Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, and Zoom exemplify the power of real-time collaboration, streamlining the process for students to cooperate seamlessly. Through these platforms, students can effortlessly work together, share resources, and engage in discussions, transcending geographical constraints for a more inclusive learning environment.

▪ Interactive Learning Tools

Incorporating interactive learning tools like Kahoot, Quizlet, and Padlet introduces an element of gamification into the learning process, transforming education into an interactive and engaging experience. For instance, Kahoot allows educators to create quizzes with competitive elements, fostering a sense of excitement and competition among students, ultimately enhancing their retention of information.

▪ Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence technologies can be employed to create personalized learning experiences for students even in collaborative learning. AI algorithms can analyze individual learning styles and preferences, tailoring educational content to meet the specific needs of each student. This fosters a more adaptive and inclusive learning environment, where students can progress at their own pace and focus on areas that require additional attention.

▪ Virtual Reality

Integrating virtual reality into collaborative learning brings a new dimension to education. Students

can engage in immersive experiences, such as virtual group field trips or simulations, fostering a deeper understanding of complex concepts. For example, exploring ancient civilizations through a virtual tour or conducting virtual science experiments enhances the educational journey, making it more captivating and memorable.

Final Thought

Collaborative learning presents a multitude of advantages and holds the potential to revolutionize the contemporary education system. Educators can amplify student engagement and improve learning outcomes significantly by implementing technology capabilities.

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