

PROS AND CONS OF TEAM BASED LEARNING, SELF-LEARNING AND DIGITAL LEARNING

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Abstract

Education is the wise, hopeful and respectful cultivation of learning undertaken in the belief that all should have the chance to share in life. Team Based Learning (TBL) is a structured form of small-group learning that emphasizes preparation of students out of class and application of knowledge in class. Self-learning is defined as a method of garnering information and after processing and retaining it without taking the help of another individual. It is the responsibility of the learner to learn and hold on to the knowledge without the help of another human resource. Digital Learning is "learning facilitated by technology that gives students some element of control over time, place, path and pace." This paper explores the pros and cons of Team Based learning, Self-learning and Digital learning.

Key words: Team based learning, Self-learning, and Digital Learning.

INTRODUCTION

Education, in a very general sense can be summed up at a basic level as referring to an experience or act that has a formative effect on the mind, character or physical ability of an individual. In the sense that it is formative means that education is serving to form something and particularly something that will have a long lasting effect on the mind of persons and faculties. The most obvious example is the skills of ability to understand use language and mathematics which is utilized through a life of individual.

“Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.” Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the oppressed.

TEAM BASED LEARNING

Team Based Learning (TBL) is a structured form of small-group learning that emphasizes student preparation out of classroom and application of knowledge in the class. Students are organized strategically into diverse teams of 5-7 students that work together throughout the class. Before each unit or module of the course, students prepare by reading prior to entering the class.

STEPS FOLLOWED IN TEAM-BASED LEARNING

i. Individual Readiness Activities (Prior to class)

Students are assigned preparatory materials to review before start of each module. The preparatory materials can be textbook chapters, articles, videos, or PowerPoint slides. The preparatory materials should highlight the foundational vocabulary and the most important concepts the students need to begin problem solving, but not everything they need to know by module end.

ii. Individual Readiness Assurance test (I-RAT)

To begin the classroom portion of the RAP process, students complete a 15-20 multiple-choice question test. They first complete the test individually (iRAT), and then repeat the same exact test with their team (tRAT). The iRAT holds students accountable for acquiring important foundational knowledge from the preparatory materials that will prepare them to begin problem-solving. The questions are typically written at Bloom's levels: remembering, understanding and simple applying.

iii. Group Readiness Assurance Test (G-RAT)

The Team Readiness Assurance Process Test (tRAT) is the exact same test as the iRAT. A special type of scoring card known as an IF-AT should be used (scratch and win style testing). With IF-AT's, the teams must negotiate which answer to choose, they then scratch off an opaque coating over their answer choice, hoping to find a star that indicates a correct answer. If the team does not discover a star, they continue to discuss the question and sequentially select other choices. The tRATs are high energy learning events.

iv. Clarification session

After taking both the IRAT and TRAT, students will have the opportunity to raise points of clarification or question through multiple-choice questions in the tests. Instructors can then address the questions and facilitate a discussion regarding the topics and concepts covered.

v. Application Activity

Finally, students work in teams to solve the application problems that allow them to apply and expand on the knowledge they have just learned and tested. They must arrive at collective response to the application question and display their answers choice in an e-gallery walk in the classroom. Instructors facilitate a discussion or debate among teams to consider the possible solutions to the application problem.

PRINCIPLES OF TEAM-BASED LEARNING

The strategy is founded on the following underlying principles:

- Student accountability is high, with students responsible for their own preparation and participation in the groups.
- The assignments or exercises used should facilitate and advance learning and teamwork within the classroom.
- Students should receive prompt and frequent feedback.

Thus engaging in Team-Based Learning helps students to reflect, review, analyze and enhance their learning while engaging in challenging tasks designed to expand their individual and team building skills.

ADVANTAGES OF TEAM BASED LEARNING

Increasing engagement: TBL has been proven to enhance the level of engagement between students and the course material. It has been proven that small-group assignments significantly enhance individual accountability and collaborative behaviors, leading to students' achievement of desired performance

Many small-group experiences without needing a large number of instructors: TBL allows us to create, in a large-scale course, a plethora of team-based activities. This is possible without having a large number of instructors since students would be preparing before class and working independently on their projects. The role of the teacher would become that of a facilitator.

Multiple opportunities for self-assessment and revision: TBL provides several occasions for students to provide feedback and discuss outcomes, suggest modifications to the projects, and compare strategies.

Increased sense of agency: Students learn best when they can feel in control. The characteristics of TBL are well able to foster these feelings, by allowing students to organize themselves independently and create solutions on their own while developing a sense of accountability towards each other.

Develops problem solving skills in Students: Students develop their problem solving skills through TBL. It helps to increase the level of problem solving skills. It is important for learning concept with deep knowledge.

DISADVANTAGES OF TEAM BASED LEARNING

- Teacher has to take into consideration many learner characteristics when forming the groups (level, learning style etc.)
- Difficult with young learners because they may be more focused on language form than on communication
- May lack focus on language areas as learners are focused on completing the task.

SELF LEARNING

Self-learning is defined as a method of garnering information and after processing and retaining it without taking the help of another individual. It is the responsibility of the learner to learn and hold on to the knowledge without the help of another human resource. It is a modern way of learning that helps a person to teach himself skills and knowledge that will prove relevant to his daily activities. It has not replaced the instructional learning process that has been used

traditionally instead has become an extra key that will open the doors of knowledge for everyone who is interested in acquiring it.

STEPS TO MAKE SELF-LEARNING EFFECTIVE

Be clear in objectives and goals: It is important for a self-learner to be clear in his mind about his objectives and goals. Remembering the study to learn independently through intentional learning and he/she needs to be clear in his/her perception from the beginning. Start the process of self-learning by setting up result-oriented and smartly formulated objectives.

Finding a reliable source: With the advent of the internet, students have to find thousands of materials for any of the topics want to pursue. Make sure that reached a reliable source that has credibility so that the information is correct and verified.

Be curious : Curious only the tool to help for dig deep and will uncover facts that may help in self-learning process. As per several medical journals, curiosity is a trait that makes life exciting and ultimately more productive.

Motivation and making the subject interesting : Go through the process of self-learning only because of seriously interested in that subject. Remembering disinterest will not take far and hence motivate early on if want to attain goal.

ADVANTAGES OF SELF-LEARNING

1. Self - learning is not time-bound and is dependent upon the person who wants to learn for whatever number of hours feels like. It gives the opportunity to set learners own pace and remove frustration and boredom from the equation.
2. Learning is without any restrictions
3. Self-learning is not subjected to location-constraint as an individual can make use of the learning process from anywhere the learners please. Learners need to travel at a particular place at a specific time and this works in the favor of learners.

4. It boosts the self-esteem of a person who can learn everything on his own. It also helps him to keep digging until he knows all there is to know about the topic.

5. In traditional learning process follows the prescribed set of rules, books and even way of studying but self-learning gives you the freedom to choose your mode of learning.

DISADVANTAGES OF SELF-LEARNING

1. Readymade materials are not available in self-learning method. It wants to put additional effort for go through and verify study materials. In traditional learning method these were already verified beforehand.

2. Working with others help in brainstorming which is not possible during self-learning

3. Teamwork encourages open communication that is not seen during the process of self-learning

4. There is no face-to-face interaction during self-learning

5. The lack of transformational power is a serious limitation of self-learning

Digital Learning

Digital learning is a way to significantly increase the learning experience between students and teachers, using the effective application of digital technology. Digital technology takes many forms. It can involve online video, Software, e-mail, virtual classrooms. Simply having technology in a classroom does not guarantee that you're going of on effective. (Kanagasundari.S 2016). Digital Learning is "learning facilitated by technology that gives students some element of control over time, place, path and pace."

ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL-LEARNING

1. **Engagement:** Improved student- motivation from engaging content and game-based strategies

2. **Time:** Extending the learning day and year; allowing students to learn when they learn best

3. **Location:** Anywhere anytime learning creates a new world of opportunity

4. **Pacing:** allowing students to progress at their own phase.

5. **Individualization:** customizing learning by level and modality
6. **Content:** rich, deep, and up to date
7. **Sharing:** the difference between ‘turn it in’ and ‘publish it’; the ability to teachers to share what works
8. **Data:** instant and multiple forms of feedback; smart profiles that will drive customized learning

DISADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL – LEARNING

1. **Lacks of social interaction:** Digital-learning is one of the causes of social isolation because the learners unable to see teachers and teachers and classmates. Interaction is very limited.
2. **Inaccessible to others:** Internet speed, the internet connection is fast and stable. Unfortunately, some have very limited access to the internet.
3. **Cheating is unavoidable:** Digital-learning includes assessment, just like in a regular classroom setting. However, there are no teachers or proctors to watch over the exams.
4. **Requiring self-motivation and proper time management skills:** Self-Motivation and time management is important to study, take down notes, and gather more information.
5. **Focuses more on theory:** Digital learning is more concentrate on Videos, presentation and animations etc. There’s no hand-on experience like conducting experiments.

CONCLUSION

Team based learning method increase the interactions among students and gives chance to get new ideas among them. Self-learning method increase confidence level and decrease the stress. At present Digital learning gives chance to get knowledge about all areas. These learning types gives lots of experiences and gives chance to learn more about subject knowledge and technical knowledge.

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