



## COLLABORATIVE AND CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING

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### Abstract

The purpose of the study is to develop the interest among the learner with the help of Collaborative and Co-operative Learning. Collaborative learning is a method of teaching and learning in which student's team explore a significant question or creates a meaningful project. It is commonly illustrated when groups of students work together to search for understanding, meaning, solutions to create product of their learning. Cooperative learning is an instructional strategy that simultaneously addresses academic and social skill learning by students. It is a team approach where the success of group depends upon everyone pulling his or her weight. In the present study we shall see the basic elements, advantages and disadvantages of Collaborative & Cooperative learning.

**Key Words:** Learning- Collaborative Learning-Cooperative Learning



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### Introduction

The word "Learning" means to think of study and classroom related activities. We think learning means various subjects and skills we intend to master in school. But learning is not limited to school. It is happening in our day to day life. We start to learn at once after our birth by adapting new environment. This learning may be deliberate, unintentional, for better or worse, correct or incorrect, conscious or unconscious. Learning is the modification of behavior through experiences.

### What is Collaborative Learning?

Collaborative learning is an umbrella term for variety of educational approaches involving joint intellectual effort by students, or students and teachers together. It requires working together towards a common goal. This type of learning has been called by various names. Co-operative learning peer learning or team learning. The common thing is that they all incorporate group work. However, collaboration is more than co-operation.

Collaboration is the process of learning. It includes student's interaction in teaching learning process. The students are responsible for one another's learning as well as reaching the goal.

Collaborative learning is to attain higher level thinking and preserve information for a longer time than students working individually. It is based on the view that knowledge is a social construction and social product. Collaborative activities are most often based on four principles-

1. The learner or student is the primary focus of instruction
2. Interaction and Activity plays an important role.
3. Working in groups is mode of learning.

Structured approaches in developing solutions to real world problems should be incorporated into learning critical thinking and problem solving skills.

According to the proponent of collaborative learning, the fact that students are actively exchanging, debating the ideas within their groups. Many researchers have reported that students working in groups tend to learn more of what is being taught. In collaborative learning students work with all types of cultural differences, all students are actively involving in learning.

We believe that collaborative learning promotes an educational agenda, one that encompasses several intertwined rationales. It is both socially and intellectually involving. It invites students to build closer connections to other students, their faculty, their course and their learning. It develops the cultivation of team work, community building and leadership skills.

The ways to follow in collaborative learning:

1. Brainstorming
2. Task group
3. Inquiry group
4. Tutorial group

#### **Advantages of Collaborative Learning**

1. Students work with all types of cultural differences.
2. Interpersonal development.
3. Active participation of students in learning.
4. More opportunities for personal feedback.

#### **Disadvantages of Collaborative Learning**

1. Collaborative learning can be a wonderfully rewarding opportunity but it is full of challenges and dilemmas.

2. Teaching in collaborative settings puts front and centre the tension between the process of students learning and content average.
3. Teacher may feel like losing control as students are given freedom.
4. Some students may not actively participate in the group. Continuous monitoring of interaction between all members of the group should be taken care.
5. It may be difficult to check and recheck the work of all the groups working at one time for an inexperienced teacher.

### **What is Cooperative Learning?**

Cooperative learning focuses on workshop. Because in co-operative learning students work together in small groups on a structured activity. They are individually accountable for their work. In co-operative learning small groups provide a place where

1. Learners actively participate.
2. Teachers become learners at times, and learners sometimes teach.
3. Respect is given to each member.
4. Students learn skills for resolving conflicts.

Goals are clearly identified.

It is felt that the single best learning strategy is cooperative learning. The learner himself finds a learning partner, who is trying to understand and use what he is learning. They offer support from each other, explore the subject regularly and check the progress. It is a sort of informal teamwork, a skill highly valued by all modern organizations.

This process of learning is enjoyable and highly motivational. As we are social animal's solo work is less enjoyable than cooperative learning or pair learning. The learners of group set their own rules of behavior, values, quality standards for cooperative learning.

One of the most valued skills in life is the ability to work effectively in informal groups. The best classroom teaches that skill through cooperative learning. This is not simply children talking together. It needs careful structuring as emphasized by David and Roger Johnson in their book 'Learning Together and Alone'.

The ways to follow in cooperative learning:

5. Set up small groups- four students in each is as ideal.
6. Each student is responsible.
7. Each student teaches his three teammates and tests them to see that they understand the material.

8. A class-wide tournament set up to set understanding.
9. The teacher gives project to each group, all students work together, contribute in projects.
10. The teacher evaluates the project of finished group and tests each pupil individually.

This concept develops group cohesiveness. Learning is individual, group and competitive. There has been individual accountability, interdependence and collaboration as in real life. Students build interpersonal skills, learn to work for a common good. In this learning whole experience for learner is positively motivating and involves maximum learning.

### **Basic Elements of Co-operative Learning**

1. Positive interdependence
2. Face to face primitive interaction members promote each others success.
3. Individual and group accountability.
4. Social Skills such as leadership, decision making, trust building, friendship development. Communication and management skills.
5. Group Processing- The purpose of group processing is to clarify and improve the effectiveness with which members carry out the process necessary to achieve the group goals.

### **Advantages of Cooperative Learning**

1. The involvement of students in higher learning.
2. The students are excited for learning.
3. Positive attitude in the students, such as cooperation, tolerance etc.
4. Train the students to express or convey their ideas.

### **Disadvantages of Cooperative Learning**

1. It is time consuming for teachers.
2. Requires adequate facilities & infrastructure.
3. It creates confusion in classroom.

In this way, Collaborative and cooperative learning plays an important role for developing interest, social skills and group processing among the students.

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