THE ESSENCE OF POOLING KNOWLEDGE TO ENHANCE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT
The essence of pooling knowledge to enhance learning is what is the need of the hour today, with resources available in abundance on the net that sometimes leaves the students puzzled if they do individual study. Cooperative learning is an approach to organizing classroom activities into academic and social learning experiences. It has been described as "structuring positive interdependence." Cooperative learning differs from traditional teaching approaches because students work together rather than compete with each other individually. Unlike individual learning, which can be competitive in nature, students learning cooperatively capitalize on one another’s resources and skills (asking one another for information, evaluating one another’s ideas, monitoring one another’s work, etc.). Furthermore, the teacher’s role changes from giving information to facilitating students’ learning. Ross and Smyth (1995) describe successful cooperative learning tasks as intellectually demanding, creative, open-ended, and involve higher order thinking tasks. This paper looks at Cooperative learning as an anchor for slow learners and others.

KEY WORDS: facilitating, shared goals, social skills, intellectually demanding.