

COOPERATIVE LEARNING AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS

by:

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Cooperative Learning is defined by Wikipedia as an educational approach which aims to organize classroom activities into academic and social learning experiences. As the name implies, cooperative learning is where a group of students or individuals come together to interact and work together to learn a certain subject. Cooperative learning usually takes place where students are grouped together and share ideas and complete tasks in achieving their academic goals. Ideally, groups should consist of both high achievers and low achievers. Learning by group has been shown to be more effective and efficient than studying independently according to research. Sharing ideas and actively interacting, answering questions, and being involved in learning activities stimulate the brains and makes retaining information so much easier. For a successful cooperative learning, it is important for the members to establish relationships among members. The success of one becomes the success of the group. Students learn accountability and the importance of responsibility of being a team player. Cooperative learning promotes positive interdependence, improves social skills, communication skills, and leadership skills, just to name a few. On the negative side, cooperative learning may create tension among team members if individual issues like sensitivity or superiority/inferiority complex are not addressed to and dealt with carefully. There must also be a balance or fairness in the roles each member plays to avoid laziness on others while others get overworked. Group effort and brainstorming makes learning more efficient and productive. At the same time, personality and skill development are being enhanced and cultivated. There may be disadvantages in working with a group, but the pros outweigh the cons always

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