COMBINING KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE LEARNING IN CLASSROOM SETTINGS

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There are many sources of ideas and information in the teaching-learning process. Students could get knowledge from their teachers, textbooks, Internet, and other learning resources available. These can aid students to learn more and can guide them in their lessons, examinations, reports and other class presentations. Aside from mentioned sources of information, learners could also get ideas and information from their classmates and this can be made possible through establishing collaborative learning in the classroom wherein the learners will create circles or groups in able to share their ideas and things they know which will be combined to create a productive learning environment.

According to Brown (2017), collaborative learning is one of the teaching approaches where students work in groups so as to understand a concept, create a product or solve a problem. This approach lets the students practice the concept of give and take because members would share ideas and information and at the same time, also receiving from other learners. Through discussions and collaboration in the group, more learning and insights would exist in which they may absorb and apply in their studies. Collaborative learning also helps learners to discover more things through their peers or classmates which establish a healthy and useful relationship between each other.
Furthermore, aside from working together as a group, they are also accountable and responsible of each other's learning because information will be coming from them and it's their duty to educate one another. This approach could also help disadvantaged students to cope with lessons because they will be aided and guided by their classmates who perform well in class. Since it is collaboration, everybody tends to help each other so that no one will be left behind. This could also be a way to help teachers handle students who are unable to cope with the discussions easily because these students would be given opportunity to understand the lessons better through their peers.

Chioran (2017) also said that collaborative learning is an approach that encourages students to create groups and work together to solve a given problem and there are several benefits learners get when working in a group setting such as developing social skills. This will give them an opportunity to hear different opinions and learn more about different cultures. This setting is also ideal for children who have difficulties in social settings because it will help them to coordinate with others which can build their confidence in socializing.

Moreover, Chioran added that students can learn from peers through collaborative learning because when a question is raised, different students can have different answers and children can learn new things from one another, but also understand different perspectives. In a small group discussion, students have the opportunity to express ideas and being heard by other peers can give them the feeling of being given importance and value, thus, enable them to learn eagerly and be engaged more in the discussions and in listening to other speakers as well.
As the students work and learn collaboratively, they gain more confidence and sense of belonging in the class which can result into more engaging teaching-learning process. Collaborative learning also promotes teamwork among the students so that no one will be left behind because they help each other and learn together as a team and not as competitors. It would also be easier to achieve a particular goal and maximize learning. The more students work together, the more they perform well and give desirable learning outcomes which gives satisfaction not only to the students but to teachers as well.

References:

https://www.nuiteq.com/company/blog/why-is-collaborative-learning-important